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Arabs reconsider peace keeping role in Lebanon

BY IHSAN HIJAZI, BEIRUT JULY 25

Senior officials of the Arab League were meeting in Cairo to-day to discuss urgent plans to strengthen the 2,300-man Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. But the Arab League mission here could be jeopardised if the latest ceasefire is not effective—and with it further efforts to get an impartially administered settlement.

Surrender
The Christians demand unconditional surrender of the Palestinian fighters holed up in Tal al-Zaatar camp. The Palestinians refuse to meet this demand. The camp has been under siege for three weeks and has become a symbol of Palestinian resistance as well as a Christian determination to consolidate their hold over what would, in effect, be a sovereign area within Lebanon.

Callaghan to defend cuts in spending this week

BY PETER HENNESSY, LOBBY CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic strategy will come under fire at a series of crucial meetings this week. The Prime Minister will defend last week's package of economic measures at today's meeting of the TUC/Labour Party liaison committee and at the Labour Party National Executive Committee on Wednesday.

MPs to question Treasury
BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT
THE TREASURY is expected to face close questioning on the spending cuts from the all-party Commons Expenditure Committee before Parliament rises at the end of next week.

£95m Civil Service savings decided

By Christian Tyler, Labour Staff

AT LEAST two-thirds of the Government's cost-cutting plan for the Civil Service has been decided. Savings amounting to £95m. at 1975 prices and spread over two years may be announced this week after the Prime Minister has met Civil Service union leaders to-morrow.

Signed
The written ceasefire agreement which was to have taken effect to-day was signed by representatives of the guerrilla movement, the Right-wing Phalangist Party, and the Left-wing Muslim Alliance of Mr. Kamal Jumblatt. It is the 52nd ceasefire in 16 months of war.

British Steel operating at a loss

BY ADRIAN HAMILTON

BRITISH STEEL is still thought to be making a substantial operating loss and is falling behind production targets in spite of a notable improvement in its finances over the last six months. The Corporation, which is expected this week to announce a loss of around £240m. for the last financial year ending in March, is believed to have suffered a continuing operating loss of between £35m. and £40m. over the first three months of the current financial year to June and to be around 300,000 tonnes short of its target production over the same period.

Competitors
British Steel in common with most of its worldwide competitors, has meanwhile suffered especially badly from the downturn in general activity last year. Thanks to an improvement in demand and productivity as well as higher prices early in the year, it has managed to reduce its losses for 1975-76 from the £350m. predicted last summer to £240m.

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Coal Board
The National Coal Board, which is also facing production problems is due to meet the full executive of the National Union of Mineworkers on Tuesday to discuss detailed proposals to improve productivity in pits which are falling short of targets. The meeting is one of the regular quarterly meetings between the full executives of the NCB and NUM and comes when the industry, despite the improvement in financial results, is well short of output targets and has drawn some 20,000-30,000 tonnes from stock to meet demand in recent weeks.

Tory move on speed limits

UNMARKED speed limits introduced as a fuel economy measure were a much bigger problem than many people imagined, Mr. Norman Fowler, Opposition spokesman on transport, said at the weekend.

COMPANIES
THOMAS BORTHWICK is coming to the market with its £12m. offer for sale. Page 14 and Lex
GT ASIA (STERLING) FUND prospectus is published to-day for the issue of up to 600,000 preference shares at £10. Page 14

Dewar's
FINE SCOTCH WHISKY
"White Label"

Smooth and ginger.
Dewar's, blended for smoothness—it never varies.

Transport brief causes road-rail collision

BY KENNETH GOODING, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THERE IS to be a head-on collision between road and rail following the publication of the Government's transport consultative document. Replies to the document are published next week.

The British Road Federation maintains that assistance from public funds received by British Rail last year totalled nearly £1bn, made up of £506.8m in "financial support" and £477.8m in a "reduction of liabilities."

"Direct financial grants and reductions in liability can both be regarded as forms of subsidy to the commercial operations of British Rail. This 1975 total is equivalent to a subsidy of £52 from every household in the country."

"The total could also be seen as a subsidy of £1 for every passenger journey by rail, plus a subsidy of £150 for every tonne of freight carried by rail. It is interesting to compare this with the average fare per rail passenger journey of 60p or with the average receipt for each tonne of freight, £137," says the federation.

A joint memorandum, published to-day by the Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association points out that, while every effort is being made to ensure that road vehicles cover their track costs, a quite different set of rules is applied to rail freight.

"Under the existing railway

accountancy system, freight movements are charged only with avoidable track costs. This means that rail freight is being subsidised by rail passenger traffic. Against this background, it is hard to see how the case for an increase in lorry taxes can be sustained, especially when the basic philosophy of the consultative paper is one of equal treatment of road and rail," say the organisations.

British Rail's reply to the consultative document will be published to-morrow and apparently this will also argue that Government policies are unfair-unfair to the railways. In particular, British Rail insists the consultative document was badly mistaken in its attitude to the competition between rail and road freight. It takes issue with the view that the transfer of freight from road to rail is largely wishful thinking or that even a substantial transfer would make very little difference to the number of lorries on the road.

Continuing with its assertion that official policies favour cars and lorries, British Rail will maintain that the document employs a double standard. Although it acknowledges that motorists do not comprehend the real cost of each journey they make, no time limit is set for solving such problems. Yet the document sets out exact time limits for the rail ways within which subsidies

should end and new practices be introduced. Private commercial and public works seemed to be the worst bit.

Mr. Bob Willan, NFBE president, said: "These results must be a cause for serious concern within the industry, and to the Government. I must emphasise that despite the reported gradual recovery in other sectors, construction remains at a disturbingly low ebb."

"The tragedy of this situation is that without more new work and with unemployment so high, this industry cannot play its full part in taking on school-leavers and training them to meet future needs for skilled labour."

"Now that the Government has acted to reduce public spending there is clearly no prospect of an increase in building work coming from that sector for some time."

"It is therefore vital, if our industry is to get its unemployed

Building recession 'yet to reach low'

BY MICHAEL CASSELL, BUILDING CORRESPONDENT

THE SEVERE recession in the building industry, although private commercial and public works seemed to be the worst bit.

Mr. Bob Willan, NFBE president, said: "These results must be a cause for serious concern within the industry, and to the Government. I must emphasise that despite the reported gradual recovery in other sectors, construction remains at a disturbingly low ebb."

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U.K. costs lower than in Europe

Financial Times Reporter

SALARIES AND wages may be lower in Britain than elsewhere in Europe, but the cost of major living expenses also remains low, according to the latest edition of the Confederation of British Industry's West European Living Costs 1976.

The guide makes no attempt to calculate relative standards of living on the basis of disposable income against expenditure. But it does give an indication of comparative living costs between Britain and the main European countries.

The least difference between Britain and the rest of Europe is in the cost of rented accommodation. A British family in Wimbledon would pay £125-£150 a month for two-bedroom accommodation, compared with £100-£120 in Germany, £121-£141 in Holland and £106.

Only in France, at £200-£256 a month, Austria, £153-£212 and Switzerland, £201, would the cost be significantly greater on average in the Continent.

Against this has to be set the wide variations in salaries and wages. A general manager of a medium-size company in Britain, £740 per month, is only earning half as much or less than his equivalent earns in France, Benelux, Scandinavia and Switzerland, and barely more than his equivalent earns in Spain and Portugal.

West European Living Costs 1976 available from the CBI, 25,

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NEWSLETTER

from

London & Continental Bankers Ltd. and its Shareholders

France's Top Credit Institution

Crédit Agricole with 9,000 Offices throughout France

is, July 1976 (CBGMBH). aisse Nationale de Crédit cole, a founder member London & Continental ers Ltd., is the head tion of a cooperative ing group consisting of self-sufficient regional s and 9,000 local offices. group, known as "Crédit cole", ranks among the d's largest financial

organizations and is France's leading credit institution. Its agricultural background gives it an inherent strength as a base for its international development. The group maintains more than 8.4 million accounts spread throughout France.

The group is decentralized in the interest of flexibility and

in recognition of the progressive community spirit on which its proud history in local banking is based. It is, at the same time, tightly knit with CNCA ensuring effective pooling of group resources and controlling numerous subsidiaries which provide all necessary complementary services.

Crédit Agricole actively supports regional development, provides finance for agricul-

ture, industry and commerce, mostly in rural areas. It also offers full retail banking services with special emphasis on the furthering of savings. The bank is authorized to issue its own long-term securities and is at the same time a competent partner in international finance.



Mink farming is big business in Finland

OKO - Finland's Third Largest Commercial Bank

Helsinki, July 1976 (CBGMBH). Osuuspankki Keskuspankki Oy (abbr. OKO) is the central bank of the cooperative bank organization covering the whole of Finland. The number of cooperative banks throughout Finland totalled 384 at the end of 1975 and these had 811 regional and branch offices bringing the total number of cooperative bank offices to 1,195.

More than a fifth of public deposits were put in cooperative banks. The number of different types of deposit and current accounts held in co-operative banks was 744,331 at the end of 1975. The membership of the cooperative banks at the end of 1975 was about 276,100. Thus Osuuspankki Keskuspankki Oy as the central bank of such a large organization plays an important part in channelling the flow of funds.

Increase in deposits from the public 20.6% in 1975. Total deposits by the public in cooperative banks amounted to 8,072 million Finmarks at the end of 1975, an increase of 1,378.4 million Finmarks or 20.6% over the previous year. Time deposits increased by 1,228.8 million Finmarks, 19.5%, totalling 7,537.5 million

Finmarks at the end of the year. Current account deposits totalled 594.5 million Finmarks, a 38.5% growth compared with the previous year.

Increase in advances to the public 28.8% in 1975

The sum of credits granted by cooperative banks to the public (including loans arranged from government funds) amounted to 7,798.2 million Finmarks at the end of the year, a growth of 1,341.6 million Finmarks, 20.8% against 1974. The major groups are individuals and the agricultural and forestry sector. Both these groups account for about one third of the total lending of the cooperative banks.

Cooperative bank organization's share 28.4% of the total deposits by the public in all financial institutions

During the last decade the amount of deposits by the public increased faster in the co-operative bank organization than in all financial institutions in general. Thanks to this OKO's share in total deposits accepted from the public by all financial institutions increased from 18.5% in 1965 to 20.4% in 1975. The market share of the cooperative bank organization in time deposits by the public in all financial institutions was 22.6% at the end of the year.

OKO's balance sheet as at December 31st, 1975 totals 3,200 million Finmarks

Osuuspankki Keskuspankki Oy (OKO) is the third largest commercial bank in Finland. At the end of 1975, the balance sheet total of OKO was 3,178.8 million Finmarks. In 1975, deposits accepted by OKO from the public grew by 35.4 million Finmarks totalling 143.9 million Finmarks at the end of the year. The so-called liquidity reserve of the cooperative banks in OKO increases by 216.3 million Finmarks. Co-operative banks' other deposits and current accounts in OKO increased by 48.9 million Finmarks. Total of cooperative bank deposits in OKO amounted to 1,178.5 million Finmarks. At the end of 1975, the total of credits granted by OKO and the share and bond investments made by it was 431.5 million Finmarks more than the year

before. The lending (loans from government funds excluded) by OKO to cooperative banks increased by 120.7 million Finmarks and the credits to other clients by 225.1 million Finmarks respectively totalling 1,614.9 million Finmarks at the end of the year. Credits arranged from government funds to cooperative banks through the intermediary of OKO totalled 793.5 million Finmarks at the year-end. The growth of the total lending was 27.2%.

In line with its operating responsibilities the Central Union of the cooperative banks working side by side with Osuuspankki Keskuspankki Oy gave advice to cooperative banks for example on legal matters and corporate research. Special attention was paid to the planning of personnel policy, development of business, management training and professional training of officials. Centralized support was given to systematic long range planning of the cooperative banks. The marketing activity covering the whole cooperative bank organization also achieved satisfactory results.

Change of the Chairman of the Board of Administration. As laid down in OKO's articles of association, Mr. Matti Miettinen, Provincial Governor, Chairman of OKO's Board of Administration, resigned his duties having reached retirement age. The new Chairman of the Board of Administration appointed on May 11th, 1975, was Mr. Esa Timonen, Provincial Governor.

Mr. Matti Latola, member of OKO's Board of Management responsible for OKO's foreign affairs, resigned his duties in OKO's management after his election as Managing Director of Osuuspankki Keskuspankki Oy (Central Union of the Co-operative Banks). The foreign department is now the responsibility of Mr. Seppo Konttinen, President.

Big financing projects. OKO acted as co-manager in the Metsä-Botnia financing operation which is one of the largest investments in the private sector in Finland at present. Fur financing for Messrs. Turkinotatjat Oy - Finnish Fur Sales Company Ltd. OKO has taken care of the whole financ-

London & Continental Bankers Ltd. provides access to powerful placement capability of its shareholders

Shareholders at a Glance

Name	Balance Sheet Total*)	Number of Offices	Share in LCB %
Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank Taunustor 3, 6000 Frankfurt/Main Germany - Tel.: 15631	£ 39,751,318,764 as of Dec. 31, 1975	19,500	50.34
LCB Directors: Dr. F. Vaher, H. Günhardt, Dr. K.-H. Schmieder-Gädick, F. Strunz			
Andelsbanken A/S Danabank International Division 31 Vestre Fasanvej 1504 Copenhagen V Denmark. Tel.: 143382	£ 735,188,000 as of Dec. 31, 1975	287	5.02
LCB Director: M. Tanning-Johansen			
Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura Via Salaria, 33, Rome, Italy. Tel.: 85881	£ 4,295,388,000 as of Dec. 31, 1975	142	2.51
LCB Director: Dr. U. Quaranta			
Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel 24, rue du Wacken 67002 Strasbourg-Cedex, France Tel.: 324841	£ 1,363,154,650 as of Dec. 31, 1975	1,100	2.51
LCB Director: R. Goergler			
Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole 9-13, boulevard Pasteur 75005 Paris, France Tel.: 5385202	£ 25,603,500,000 as of Dec. 31, 1975	9,000	7.54
LCB Director: A. Jeannot-Galligani			
Centrale Rabobank Benedictus 13, Utrecht The Netherlands. Tel.: 369111	£ 8,477,000,000 as of Dec. 31, 1975	3,145	10.05
LCB Director: Dr. G. J. M. Vlak			
CEBA - Centrale Raiffeisen Niederösterreich AG 3000 Leoben, Belgium Tel.: 227931	£ 972,480,489 as of Dec. 31, 1975	1,000	2.51
Föreningsbankerna Bank Grev. Lungegatan 30 102 40 Stockholm, Sweden Tel.: 224320	£ 1,265,470,000 as of Dec. 31, 1975	750	2.51
LCB Director: I. Johnsson			
Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank AG Hermesgasse 1, 1011 Vienna, Austria. Tel.: 632636	£ 4,855,000,000 as of Dec. 31, 1975	1,982	10.05
LCB Director: Dr. H. Klauhs			
Osuuspankki Keskuspankki Oy Arkadiankatu 22, 00100 Helsinki, Finland. Tel.: 410041	£ 1,586,641,915 as of Dec. 31, 1975	1,195	2.51
LCB Director: S. S. Konttinen			
S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. 30 Gresham Street, London EC2, Great Britain Tel.: 0140555	£ 490,725,000 as of March 31, 1975	1	4.55
LCB Director: T. H. Patschek			

*) These totals include the integrated member institutions.

B.C.W. Jonker appointed LCB Chief Executive Europe

Mr. B.C.W. Jonker, who studied economics at the University of Rotterdam, started his career in 1964 when for two years he worked for French banks both in Holland and in France. After that he joined his family stock broking company in



Amsterdam which became part of the Lloyds Bank Group in 1969. Up to May of this year, Mr. Jonker worked for Lloyds Bank International, latterly as Manager, International Financial Services responsible for the Netherlands.

requirements, both domestic and foreign. This company is the world's largest exporter of cheese, butter and powdered milk. Total exports of cheese, butter and powdered milk surpassed 50 million kilos in 1975.

One of Holland's Major Financial Institutions

Centrale Rabobank accounts for more than 40% of Dutch Banking Deposits

sterdam, July 1976 (CBGMBH). — With more than 9 million savings and rent accounts, Centrale Rabobank ranks among the three financial institutions in Holland. Nearly every second Dutch banking customer is Rabobank's comprehensive financial services. The co-operative banking term of which it is the central institution, consists of 10 member banks with more than 3,100 branches. It serves an important part of the agricultural industry in the Netherlands and provides a comprehensive range of retail banking services throughout the country, especially to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Centrale Rabobank has interests in insurance and leasing and is rapidly expanding activities in the field of national finance, export import financing and foreign exchange.

The area of underwriting bank provides advice and assistance to prospective clients, in the Netherlands and abroad, on the size, timing and financing of domestic and foreign investments. It acts as lead-manager, co-manager and/or underwriter in raising both in the national and Eurocurrency markets.

Eurocurrency markets have again expanded during the past year but with short-maturities than in the previous period of expansion. The role of Centrale Rabobank as one of the managers or underwriters of locally internationally syndicated loans to public and private borrowers in various countries continued to grow steadily and the bank engaged in the issue of all types of securities, in-

cluding straight bonds, notes and convertible bonds.

Centrale Rabobank participated both on a best-efforts basis and on a firm basis whereby the bank firmly undertakes to place fully a part of the issue. However, in the light of the increased risks for the banking system and the bank's policy of gradual expansion in this field, firm syndications are agreed upon only for the highest quality of borrowers.

The bank endeavours to expand its range both geographically and in terms of the diversity of services provided and it expects that further underwriting operations will be undertaken during the coming year.

In project financing two major undertakings deserve special mention: The house-building project at Maarsse and the auction halls in South-Holland.

In 1975, Centrale Rabobank enlarged its interest in the real estate sector by providing advance financing for a sizeable housebuilding project at Maarsse. The entire project will be completed around 1987 and comprises 8,000 to 10,000 dwellings in all, as well as 20,000 and 17,000 sq. metres for shops and industrial enterprises, respectively. 1,350 dwellings have already been completed during the first stage and another 2,500 planned for the second stage are now under construction.

Also in 1975 six fruit and vegetable auction societies merged in the province of South-Holland to create a new system of auction halls with a trade centre at Barendrecht. The entire area covers 36 hectares, of which approximately 11 hectares are taken up by buildings.

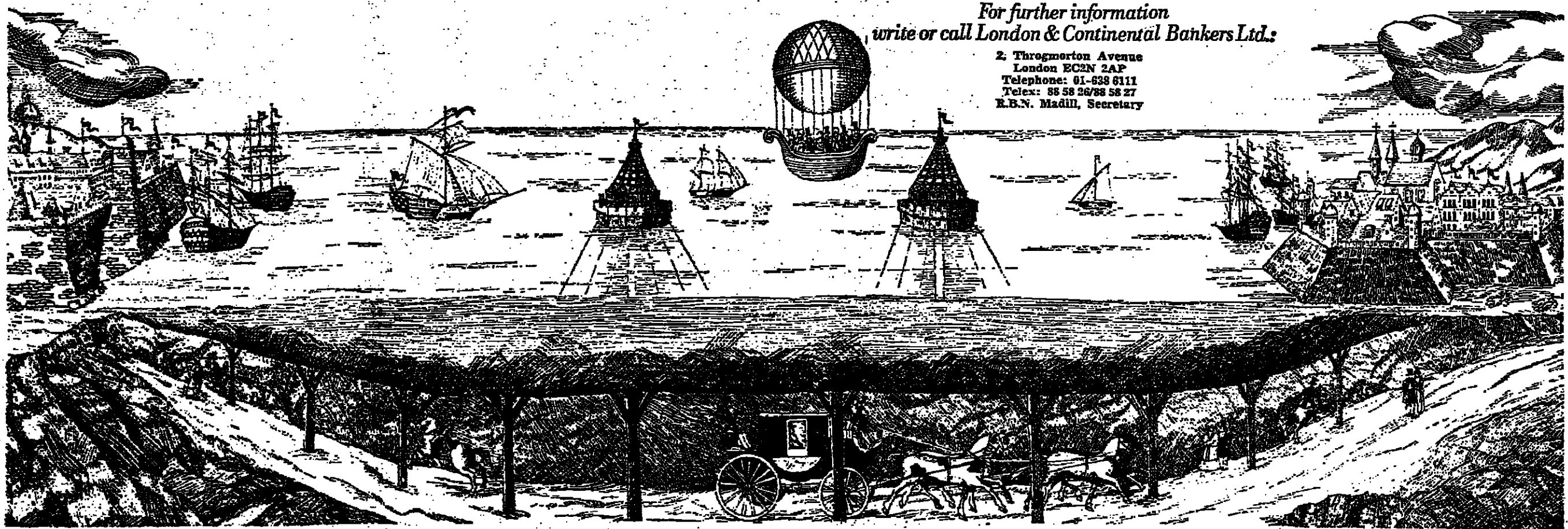
Total sales per annum by the auction are around 120 million guilders. The greater part of the finance required was provided by Centrale Rabobank.

The Annual General Meeting of the Rabobank organization appointed Mr. P. J. Lardinois Chairman of the Executive Board of Centrale Rabobank with effect from January 1st, 1977. In that capacity Mr. Lardinois will succeed Dr. A. J. Verhage, who will retire at the end of December 1976.

In 1975, Mr. Lardinois was appointed agricultural attaché to the Netherlands Embassy in London. He held this position until September 1963 when he was elected to the Second Chamber of the States General. He was at the same time a member of the European Parliament from October 1963. During this period he also served on the boards of several agricultural organizations. He resigned these functions when he was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on April 26th, 1967. On January 1st, 1975, Mr. Lardinois was appointed to the Commission of the European Communities, especially charged with agricultural affairs.



Large housebuilding project at Maarsse, Holland



For further information write or call London & Continental Bankers Ltd.

2 Throgmorton Avenue
London EC2N 2AP
Telephone: 01-638 8111
Telex: 58 58 26/58 58 27
E.B.N. Madill, Secretary

Under present law and practice and on the basis that control is not exercised in Jersey and is regarded as resident outside Jersey for the purposes of Jersey tax, it will not therefore be subject to Jersey income tax. Since it is the policy of the Company not to make any investments in

KEY TAKE-AWAY: THE OUTCOME OF THE POLICY OF THE COMMISSION

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

rank, after the repayment of the capital paid up on the Participating Shares and the Manager's Shares, for the repayment of the capital paid up on the Preferred Shares and the Manager's Shares, and to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Company.

The nominal amount of each Participating Share is to be redeemed out of distributable profits, the providing the funds for redeeming the is paid up on each Participating Share. The terms of the Management Agreement between the Company and the Managers impose an obligation on the Man-

^a The number of subjects who were included in each group was determined by the number of subjects who completed the study.

3. The Company does not have any debentures, debenture stock, loan capital, home

Circumstance	Percentage of Respondents (%)
If someone is attacking you	85
If someone is threatening you	75
If someone is harassing you	65
If someone is insulting you	55
If someone is annoying you	45

G. I. ASIA (STERLING) FUND LIMITED

ISSUE

Preference Shares ("Shares") of 1p each and

APPLICATION FORM

shares applied for*	enclosed	For Office use only
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To: The Directors of G.T. ASIA (STERLING) FUND LIMITED ("the Company")
Gentlemen,

of 1p each. I/we offer to subscribe for that number of shares and I/we agree to accept the same or any smaller number of shares in respect of which this application may be accepted upon the terms of the Prospectus dated 23rd July 1974 and subject to the Memorandum and Articles

I/we authorise you to send a share certificate in respect of such shares and/or a check representing the return of any application moneys due to me/us by post at my/our risk to the (first) address written below and I/we hereby authorise you to place my/our name(s) on the

not applying for the above-mentioned shares as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside those Territories.

I/We declare and warrant that due completion of this Application Form accompanied by cheque will constitute an undertaking by me/us that the cheque sent herewith will be paid on first completion of the application.

DATE1976. SIGNATURE
Please use Block Letters

Surname and Designation
(Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Title)

Address in full (including

TA Corporation should complete this Form under the hand of a duly

_____ should state his capacity)

(2) Signature

(Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title) _____
Address (in full) _____

Surname and Designation Forename(s) in full

(4) Signature

(Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

use first class mail. The Company reserves the right to present all cheques for payment on receipt and to withhold certificates and excess application monies

Stamp of Stockbroker
or banker claiming

Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the
Ireland and Gibraltar. Authorised
currency of the Bank of East

Republic are defined in the Bank of England Notice E.C. 10.



The Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

SECURITY

Valuables stay under cover

PROVISIONAL patents have been granted on a method to improve security for money and valuables by avoiding transmission of goods from a vehicle to a building by manual and "exposed" methods.

The security vehicle is equipped with a mechanism which is in effect an extendable enclosure which is combined with a delivery pillar installed on bank or other premises so as to form a totally enclosed "delivery path" from the vehicle to the strongroom.

The permanent reception pillar may be constructed of armour plate, reinforced concrete, or a combination of these, and would be fitted with a suitably secured door, the opening of which would be actuated from a control station in accordance with a pre-programmed sequence.

At no time during delivery or collection would it be possible for persons other than those involved in the vehicle or on the premises to have direct visual or physical contact with the goods being transferred.

Assuming a normal situation in which the "premises" were anticipating the arrival of a security vehicle, the control station (and probably the manager's office) would be

switched on to receive the "arrived" signal. This would be transmitted by radio-telephone link from the vehicle and only upon receipt of a coded reply would the mechanism in the vehicle be "unlocked" to operate.

The vehicle personnel would signal that readiness existed at the vehicle and the controller would initiate the programmed sequence by radio-telephone signals to the control panel in the vehicle.

The external shutter in the vehicle's side would be raised. This would expose the shutter mounted on the canopy, which would then open. The condition would then be that the interior and inner doors of the empty canopy would be exposed. The canopy would then be extended and upon reaching its maximum position its outer face would be beyond the pillar and its flanks would be on either side of the pillar.

At this stage, the next sequence signal—for the opening of the inner canopy doors—could be overridden or temporarily delayed by the vehicle personnel viewing through the observation panel adjacent to the canopy. Upon clearance being given from the vehicle, the

inner doors would open, followed by the final step—the opening of the pillar door.

Direct contact between the vehicle and the controller would by now be achieved and delivery collection could proceed, the hoist and conveyor (if applicable) being operated by the controller while maintaining radio-telephone contact with the vehicle personnel throughout the entire operation.

It is envisaged that to ensure the safety of public on the pedestrian footpath, a member of the vehicle personnel, probably the co-driver from the cab, would dismount and be stationed on the footpath—being under observation from the vehicle so that any molestation or interference would result in the overriding of the sequenced signals and, if necessary, their reversal.

A further security feature is proposed in that when the equipment on the premises is inoperative, the goods platform of the hoist would be stationary at the lower end of the shaft at its point of entry into the operator's chamber, thus providing, in addition to the proposed security shutters, a further barrier to any attempt at unauthorised entry via the pillar. Further details from A. Cappey, 16, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.11.

ELECTRONICS

Low noise amplifier

AIMED at the thermal imaging market where low noise performance is mandatory are two new integrated circuits from Plessey Semiconductors designed for low noise amplification.

SL 1202 is a pre-amplifier with up to 60 dB of gain and the SL1203 is also a pre-amplifier with differential output and current mirror for driving cadmium mercury telluride infra-red detectors.

The balanced output stage has adjustable quiescent current so that power consumption can be minimised. The noise performance is extremely good. More from Cheney Manor, Swindon, Wilts (0793 36251).

MATERIALS

COMMUNICATIONS

Package of audio visual

TECHNICOLOR projector systems with or without a complete "package deal" covering filming, processing, editing and translating are now offered by Redi Audio Visual, Central Way, Feltham, Middx. (01-890 4684).

This will enable firms of any size to equip their sales force with a complete portable audio-visual system with the minimum of down payment. Companies whose products are difficult to demonstrate can show a film with commentary to as many people as they wish in the surroundings of their choice.

Contained in an executive-size case, the unit can be used either as a desk-top viewer for six to eight people, or the lid can be lowered and the image projected on to a suitable vertical surface giving an image six feet square. The film is supplied in cassettes with up to 30 minutes running time and cassettes can be changed in seconds.

Technicolor equipment available includes the 270 and 280 film loop players, Series 2000 "Showcase" Series 400 Instant Theatre and the 1000 and 1200 heavy duty projectors.

Robot finds sub-cable faults

AN UNMANNED submersible craft called Scarab will come into use in the autumn to help Cable and Wireless recover, repair and re-lay coaxial submarine cable.

Able to operate down to 1,000 fathoms, Scarab first locates the cable using the earth's field, seen on a magnetometer, or signals leaking from the cable fault, using a gradiometer.

Data from these sensors and from a sonar unit are sent over an umbilical cable to the mother ship where they are presented on

a graphical CRT display of range circles plus symbols to represent ship, Scarab and other sonar "pinger" marker devices on the sea bed.

The vehicle automatically seizes the cable, after exposing it with water jets, cuts it and then the ship raises the two ends for preparation and repair. Later the re-joined cable is buried once again, using the jets.

INSTRUMENTS Times with accuracy

REPEAT accuracy of 10 milliseconds is claimed for a digital timer introduced by N. J. Froment of Cliffe Road, Easton, Stamford, Lincolnshire. (0780 51051.)

A mains switching device, the timer covers the range 0.1 to 9.99 seconds in steps of a tenth of a second. Within a temperature range of zero to 50 deg C and ± 15 per cent. voltage variation, the unit is accurate to within ± 0.5 secs of indicated time.

Suitable for bench use or wall mounting, the unit is contained in a high impact chemical resistant polystyrene case measuring 230 x 160 x 100 mm. Price is £49.80 ex VAT.

Repair of the roof of the parish church of St. Peter and Paul in Great Missenden, Bucks., has been an unusual contract for British Rail. About 80 square metres of roof over the transept was recently covered with oil-impregnated exterior grade hardboard before a specially formulated plastic coating, about 1.5mm thick, was sprayed on to seal it. British Rail has for some years been developing spray-on plastics coating techniques to waterproof bridge decks.

METALWORKING Lathe from Sweden

A SAAB mini-computer forms the heart of the control system of the Swedish Torshälla S200 CNC lathe now being marketed by Hornum Brothers of Folgate, Sussex.

Information input is via tape reader, programmed storage unit or manual keyboard, enabling machine control for single or prototype production with editing prior to normal production.

The lathe itself is designed for all chucking and bar work, and uses standard tools to produce multi-diameters, tapers, curves, clearances and threads. Drive is taken from a 12kW dc motor to a 4-speed gear box. Nineteen spindle speeds can be programmed.

Maximum swing over the bed is 400mm, and over the cross slide 200mm, with 300mm maximum cross traverse. Turnings up to 750mm long can be carried out.

PERIPHERALS

High-speed plotting

TWO NEW additions to the Gould range of high-speed electrostatic plotters, Models 5005 and 5105, incorporate a dual-array printing head which results in a sharper, blacker image. The printing head consists of two rows of stylus, spaced 100 to the inch, and staggered in such a way that successive dots produced by the stylus overlap to give a high-contrast, solid-line trace.

The 5005 has a printing speed of 1,800 lines per minute and a plotting speed of 3.25 inches per second on 11-inch-wide paper, while the 5105, using 22-inch-wide paper, prints at 1,200 character lines per minute and plots at 3.25 inches per second.

Gould Advance at Raynham Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Herts. (0279 55155).

DATA PROCESSING

Will even prompt the novice

THE literature on the latest machine from Texas Instruments states that it is designed to bridge the gap between the desk-top calculator and the computer. Indeed, equipped with power that would probably have filled a room ten years ago, it is difficult to know which word to use in describing it.

Designated SR-60 it has a built-in printer, magnetic card reader for programs, and a spread of function keys that surpasses anything yet seen.

There is a 20 character display that prompts the user into his next move at various stages in the problem; the system waits for a response before continuing. "This 'dialogue,'" states Texas, allows even a novice to work with complicated problems immediately.

For business use the machine is capable of many tasks including financial analysis, long term forecasting and payroll. For technology applications it has 46 scientific functions on a keyboard, while 480 program

memory locations and 40 data registers are available for complicated programming.

Short problems can be key-programmed. But larger custom-designed programs are easy to write and record permanently on 101 x 2 inch magnetic cards, which are fed into a slot in the front of the unit. A basic applications library containing ten pre-recorded programs is supplied with the machine and over 100 others are available optionally.

Operation is claimed to be no more difficult than a general purpose calculator. The left-to-right algebraic operating system allows problems to be entered as they are written. Answers can be displayed, printed on the 2 1/2 inch quiet thermal printer, or both.

Examples of the software are a financial pack which includes add-on instalment loans, depreciation, linear regression analysis and others, and an electrical engineering pack which includes transformer design, transmission lines and coil properties.

The company's suggested retail price is £1,506, with the distribution through the office equipment trade only. More from 165 Bath Road, Slough, SL1 4AD (Slough 3544).

Automation in the Press

FOLLOWING a selection study supported by BIS, Mirror Group Newspapers has ordered two Data General Nova 840's plus Plessey software to give the group more powerful facilities to control the booking for its advertising space and dealing with the complexities of racing.

The systems will replace existing accounting machines within the accounts department and the "turnkey" system for the Sporting Life will cover all applications in accounts, advertising and racing form applications.

This is the Mirror Group's first venture into running its own computer—previously it used ICL's Central Computing Service—and reliability and ease of use were paramount. The new system has two computers communicating via a disc with terminals on one machine.

BIS Applied Systems were engaged to assist the Mirror Group in this decision after completing a review of IPC's IBM 370/135 used Central Computing Services in 1975. Meanwhile automation is pro-

gressing within West Press and King and Hitch division of the group ordered two 2303 computer installations in its Ux Middlesex headquarters.

The order is valued at £220,000 and the first, which will be used for retail applications, will be installed this month.

It is King and Hitch second 2303 to be used for retail applications, the first being a new ground for the retail machines.

Although this will be the 2303 to be used for retail applications, ICL, some years been active segment of the computer market and to date has more than 17m. worth of equipment installed or on order, representing more than 30 systems, U.K. printing and publishing. BIS on 01-625 8011. 01-758 7272.

RESEARCH

Problems of waste disposal

WHILE handling and storage of waste from the treatment of highly active nuclear fuel is constantly in the news, there are other problems caused by uranium exploitation, not the least of which is what to do with waste from the ore.

Developing environmentally acceptable methods for storing and disposing of waste material produced at uranium ore mills is the aim of a study being managed by Argonne National Laboratory in the U.S.

These uranium milling waste products, called tailings, present

a potential environmental public health hazard because their bulk and the small amount of radioactivity they contain.

Refining removes more than 99 per cent of the uranium the raw ore but most of the radioactivity remains in the waste. Furthermore, the tailings of the original ore. Consequently, large areas of land are required to store the waste.

The Argonne task force examines current procedures handling tailings and for mining waste storage site will identify areas where research is needed to store the waste safely.

Suggestions and comments should be directed to A National Laboratory's Environmental Impact Studies Division, 9700 So. Cass Avenue, Argonne, Illinois, U.S.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND INVITATION TO TENDER

HODEIDA WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE PROJECT

The National Water Supply and Sewerage Authority announces that a credit from the International Development Association, through the government of the Yemen Arab Republic, has been approved to finance construction of a water supply for the city of Hodeida, the main sea port of the Yemen Arab Republic. It is intended that proceeds of this credit will be applied towards payment under contract for which this notice is issued. Bidding will be opened to contractors from countries who are members of the national Bank for Reconstruction and Development (N.B.R.D.) and Switzerland.

Only contractors experienced in the execution of projects of similar magnitude and of sound financial position, would be part of the evaluation, will be considered.

SCOPE OF WORK

Tender 11—Construction of Transmission Line (each supply of pipes, fittings and appurtenances).

The works include the following:

1. Construction of pumping mains with fittings appurtenances approximately 10.3 km, no diameter 500 mm and 400 mm, from El-Hadi well field to the town of Hodeida, including station, laying, jointing, backfilling and testing.
2. Construction of manholes and valve chambers.

Tenders documents will be available in National Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Offices, and with Messrs. F. H. K. G., main office in Düsseldorf, West Germany.

Interested bidders can purchase the documents by now to the following offices after payment of 150 dollars, being the cost of tenders.

NATIONAL WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, P.O. Box No. 104, SANAA, YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC.

Consultants: F. H. K. G., P.O. Box 320 625, Düsseldorf, West Germany.

The closing date will be at 12.00 noon on 14th Sept 1976.

CALL FOR TENDER

The Somali Democratic Republic calls for tenders for prequalifications for the construction of bituminous road between Gohien and Gelib (a 257 Km).

All information may be obtained at Ministry of Public Works, P.O. Box 958, Mogadishu, Somalia. project is being considered for financing jointly by the European Development Fund and the Arab Bank for Economic and Social Development.

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY (NEPA) PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERS FOR

CONTRACT No. MS 001 FURNISHING, DELIVERING AND INSTALLING HYDRAULIC TURBINES AND GOVERNORS FOR SHIMORO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

The Shimoro Hydroelectric Project will consist of a concrete-faced rockfill dam with a height of 115 meters from the river bed and a crest length of 700 meters, including spillways; an above ground indoor-type powerhouse at the dam site with a generating capacity of 600 MW using four 150 MW Francis turbines rated at 97 metres mean net head and a shaft speed of 150 rpm; an administration and control building; and switchyard.

The project is located in Wajir State, approximately 90 km. southwest of the City of Nairobi. It is situated at Shimoro on the Kapanga River near its confluence with the Shimoro River. The National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) is inviting tenders for the furnishing, delivering and installing of the turbines and governors for the project. The tenders will be opened on 14th September 1976 at 12.00 noon.

The generators will be vertical shaft Francis turbines with a rated capacity of 150 MW each. The total installed capacity will be 600 MW. The project will include civil works, including the dam, powerhouse, switchyard, transmission lines, and access roads. The project is estimated to cost 150,000,000 Kenyan Shillings (KShs). The project is being financed by the World Bank and the Government of Kenya.

For further information, contact: Mr. N. P. Tripathi, Project Manager.

PLANT & MACHINERY SALES

Description	Price	Telephone
1974 Ten Stand roll forming line by Hunter-Douglas. Virtually unused. Capacity 200 mm x 2 mm M.S. strip complete with automatic cut-to-length equipment.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
2 Stand Rolling Mill for flattening wire and rolling narrow strip. Complete with edging rolls and recoller.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
Rolling Mills: 1) 12" x 12" 125 HP Farmer Norton two high. 2) 24" x 36" x 300 HP Robertson two high. 3) 6" x 12" 14" 180 HP Stanart Mann four high.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
Modern Used Rolling Mills, wire rod and tube drawing plant—roll forming machines—slitting—flattening and cut-to-length lines—cold saws—presses—guillotines, etc.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
1970 Herdierhoff 100 KW double vacuum annealing plant useful charge area 625 mm dia x 2000 mm loading height—output 6000 lb per 24 hours.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
1971 Automated 25ft Drawbench with pushpointer by Wellman—effective pull 10 tons at 100 fpm and 20 tons at 50 fpm. Virtually unused.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
1974 Fully Automated Cold Saw by Noble & Lund with batch control for cutting non-ferrous bar. Max. capacity 5" round and square.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
1971 Fully Automatic High Precision Circular Saw by Rhoel with batch control. Max. capacity 60 mm bar-70 mm profiles and tubes.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
1970 cut-to-length line, max. capacity 1000 mm x 2 mm x 7 tonnes coil, fully overhauled and in excellent condition.	P.O.A.	021-556 0904 Telex 336414
Caterpillar 14E Motor Grader, complete with new tyres.	£25,500	Telex 51187
Caterpillar 964C Wheel Loader, with 3 1/2 cu. yd. bucket and new tyres.	£25,500	094-34 4531 Telex 51187

Modern Used Rolling Mills, wire rod and tube drawing plant—roll forming machines—slitting—flattening and cut-to-length lines—cold saws—presses—guillotines, etc.

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Building and Civil Engineering

m. bridge approach Wimpey is ad contract busy in Canada

IN CIVIL Engineering, Wimpey Canada has been awarded a \$4m. contract by the Humber County Council to build the Humber south approach road. The new road will be about 1.5 km long, extending from the north end of the Humber to a point 650 metres from the A1077. A grade separated roundabout will link the road to the A1077. The bridge includes two four-lane concrete slab carrying the roundabout approach road. The 26-metre-long approach extending from the south end of the Humber will consist of seven precast concrete spans with undulations to all the piers, major structures called a three-span reinforced slab bridge carrying a road over Far Lings and a reinforced concrete viaduct over a railway at Road. 300,000 cubic metres of on, mainly in chalk, will be used in the area of the bridge. Some of this will be used in the construction of the viaduct adjacent to the road. The project is Freeman Fox.

Commercial mises in nchester

and Hill has been awarded a contract, valued at \$m, for the construction of a new hall, shops and a Mosley Street, Leamington. The development will include a shopping centre, a new hall with ancillary ground floor, mezzanine and offices to the fifth floor. Air conditioning will be installed. The structure will be mainly precast concrete and the walls, of in-situ concrete or light-weight blockwork, will have an

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	Dec. 31st, 1975
Paid-up Capital	100,000,000 BF
Contingency Reserve	270,000 BF
Deposits	2,443,890,326 BF
Loans	1,779,993,526 BF
Total Assets	2,586,730,509 BF
Profit after taxation	2,478,698 BF

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Iran homes order for Cubitts

CUBITT International is to carry out work on the \$10m. first stage of a new community at Kermanshah, Iran, about 450 km. west of Tehran. Total cost of the township eventually will top \$100m. It will cover an area of some 200 hectares and overall 4,500 dwellings are planned on site by the developers—the Elahieh Housing Company—by the mid-1980s. All the dwellings will be sold on the private market.

Cubitts work on the initial phase will involve construction of 504 apartments for middle income families, designed by the Iranian architectural practice BANCOR. The homes will be arranged in 84, three-storey blocks and construction is to be carried out over a 30-month period.

Triumph for British architects

SEVEN firms of British architects are among the 13 prize-winners in an international competition for the design of a \$90m. 450-bed hotel and conference centre in Abu Dhabi. The competition was sponsored by the United Arab Emirates Development Bank which appointed an international jury of five. The winning design was from the studio of Rothermel Cooke of London who gained the first prize of \$27,000.

The second prize goes to Gordon Bowyer and Partners of London. There were five first mentions including three British firms: Spratley Crappell Partnership of London, BGP Group of London and Architects Design Group of Derby. Five other mentions included two British firms: Quantic Associates of London and Crowley Moore-Edde of London.

The winning scheme shows the bedroom block rising from the surrounding areas and spaces in succeeding overlapping storeys to give shelter from the sun. There is a number of cool, planted and watered courts within the complex which opens out towards the sea in a series of tiered terraces, gardens and pools.

designed in the Lowton Modulow steel framed system supplied by the group's steel division, with timber cladding and all joinery components by Lowton Joinery. The school will contain five single-storey classrooms, an administration and staff building, and domestic quarters.

£4½m. worth to McAlpine
CONTRACTS with a total value of \$4½m. have been awarded to Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons. These range from the modernisation of Bailey's Hotel, London, to the construction of a caesium removal plant at Berkeley nuclear power station, Gloucester. Other work in London includes the "virtual rebuilding" of the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith and internal works at Prudential Assurance offices in Finsbury Circus and Stratford Place, W.1.

£1.7m. Arab contracts
TWO CONTRACTS worth a total of \$1.7m. have been won in Kuwait and Bahrain by Lowton Construction Group. The first, worth \$1.4m. is for the supply to Kuwait Oil Company of prefabricated components for a supervisors' complex including 125 dwellings, 76 bachelor flats, recreation and messing facilities, at Ahmadi, Kuwait. The second, worth \$300,000, is for a school at Budaiya, Bahrain.

Ontario for S. B. McLaughlin Associates. Work is just starting and the contract period is two years.

The second for \$450,000 is for Qualico Developments at St. Albert, and is for storm drains, sewers, water and general services for a housing development of 211 dwellings. Work has just started and will take 10 weeks. In Kingston, Ontario, two other contracts are being undertaken, one valued at \$240,000 for the 30 houses. Work commences on August 1.

for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment at \$170,000. Back in the U.K. Wimpey has been awarded a contract valued at \$770,000 for the modernisation of existing local authority houses at Westwood Park, Eccles by Salford Corporation. The project, which involves 213 houses, is an extension of a modernisation contract awarded at the beginning of this year valued at \$134,000 in respect of 30 houses. Work commences on August 1.

cluded two British firms: Quantic Associates of London and Crowley Moore-Edde of London. The winning scheme shows the bedroom block rising from the surrounding areas and spaces in succeeding overlapping storeys to give shelter from the sun. There is a number of cool, planted and watered courts within the complex which opens out towards the sea in a series of tiered terraces, gardens and pools.

H. A. N. BROCKMAN

Woodwork industry discussions
TALKS have been held between the British Woodwork Manufacturers' Association and the Joinery and Timber Construction Association with a view to forming a single self-governing organisation for the woodwork industry.

Leaders in the talks have been Mr. R. L. M. Mackie, BWMA president, and Mr. David Llewellyn, JACTA president, and it is expected that further discussions will eventually lead to the setting-up of a single body, subject to the approval of the members of the two existing bodies.

£5m. London housing project
SOUTHWARK Construction, the joint contracting organisation formed by the Direct Works Department of the London Borough of Southwark and Bovis Construction, has been awarded its third major housing contract in five months. The latest job, worth about \$5m., was secured from the London Borough of Southwark in open competition. It is for phase 1 of the Borough's 325-dwelling Brimington South project, which will provide accommodation for 931 people when completed in mid-1979. Earlier this year, Southwark Construction had been awarded phase 1 of the 452-dwelling Consort housing development and the 368-dwelling Newington scheme—both due to be completed in the second half of 1979.

The Brimington South site, bounded by Asylum Road, Station Passage and Clifton Way, will provide 22 different types of houses and flats in 10 different blocks, of brick construction with tiled and pitched roofs and concrete strip foundations.

Seals the roof
AN EMULSION based sealing and heat insulating compound is being marketed by Supra Chemicals and Paints for use on old tiled and slated roofs. The compound, "Infil"—was originally developed as a gap and crack filler, but operations are said to have shown it to be very effective for sealing warped tiles and loose slates, as found on older type houses. It is applied by heavy duty spray equipment.

IN BRIEF
● A computer service which produces a contracts costing ledger has been introduced by a computer service company, CMG Computer Management Group (Scotland). Its use is applicable to building, civil engineering and similar industries.

● A new film highlighting its activities in the U.K., Northern Europe, Middle East and South America has just been made by Tarmac. A remake of an earlier film it aims to remind the audience that Tarmac's activities today are in many diverse fields and that road-making, although important, is now only part of its operation. The 16m. full colour film runs for 15 minutes and is available on loan.

● Biggs Wall and Company has started work on a 5,000m. long 800mm. diameter ductile iron trunk main to be constructed from West Grinstead to Colstaple, Sussex, under a \$170,000 contract awarded by the Southern Water Authority, West Sussex Water and Drainage Division.

● Dorbyl Shipyard in Durban is being extended by the Cementation Company (Africa Contracts) Pty under a R2.8m. contract. The development includes a slipway 125 metres long and 35 metres wide with a depth of six metres and an assembly area 100 metres in length. The slipway is being built alongside the existing one and is scheduled for completion later this year.

● Tenders are out for the building of a further 120 Telford Development Corporation rented dwellings at Wombidge. The contract is expected to be worth \$1.3m. and should be awarded soon.

● Medway Buildings has been awarded a \$11m. contract by Maidstone Borough Council for the construction of 118 houses at Seneca Wood.

● Marshall-Andrew and Co. has signed a management fee contract to control a \$70m. housing project in Abu Dhabi. The contract is for 5,000 houses on which work is due to start next April.



The new Home Office building on the site of Queen Anne's Mansions in Petty France, London, is now nearing completion. The \$17m. block in concrete-framed portland stone overlooks Birdcage Walk and dominates Wellington Barracks and the Guards Chapel. It will house 1,500 staff, but will still leave a further 5,000 in other accommodation around London. The new building was designed by Sir Basil Spence and constructed by Taylor Woodrow.

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Desert city water supply

AN AGREEMENT has been made between Sir M. MacDonald and Partners, consulting engineers of Cambridge, and the Government of Saudi Arabia, for the design phase of a major project to supply additional drinking water to Riyadh City.

The Saudi Arabian Government had previously accepted the feasibility report submitted last year by the consulting engineers, which was based on the provision of an additional 100,000 cubic metres of water per day. The authorities have now asked the engineers to proceed with the design of the scheme to provide twice this quantity.

The report had recommended extracting the water from the Wasia aquifer, about 100km east of Riyadh, and pumping it to the city with either normal water treatment or with desalination if the additional cost was considered economic. While the plentiful Wasia water obviously would be cheaper without desalination, the engineers suggested that as its quality was not consistent or accurately predictable, desalination should be seriously considered.

The Saudi Arabian authorities have now agreed to desalination and the engineers estimate that the revised project will take 18 months in design, and a further 31 years to complete, at a total estimated cost in the region of \$300m. The project is believed to be the largest single town water supply scheme in the world, and the desalination plant will be the largest ever built for domestic water supply.

Houses and flats

MEARS Construction has won a \$296,511 contract for a housing development for the North British Housing Association at Murdishaw, near Runcorn, Cheshire. The 18 month development programme calls for 101 two-storey dwellings, together with a road, hardstandings, drains and sewers. Nearby, Mears has also won a \$260,161 contract for 30 flats at Airport Road, Bromborough, Cheshire. The contract was awarded by The Collingwood Housing Association.

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From Washington, David Bell reports that there is some concern that the economic brakes may be put on too hard.

Problems of U.S. economic recovery

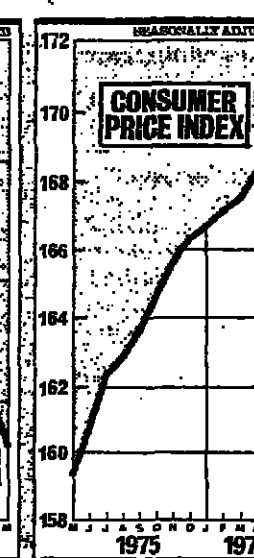
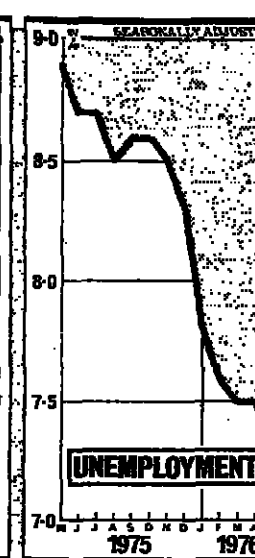
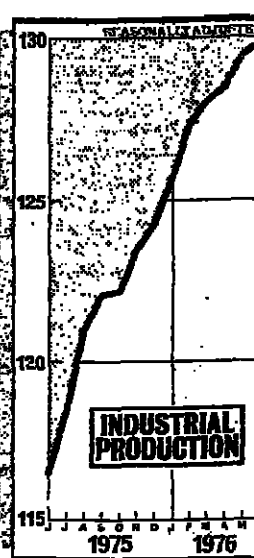
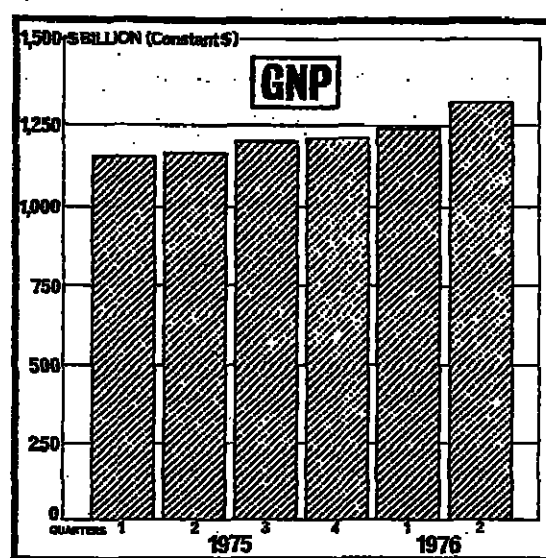
TOUS, measured, sustained: these are some of the words that bring smiles to the faces of many economists as they talk about the American economic recovery. Even the Administration, the one that is gaining the most credit for the recovery, is not immune from the temptation to grow if it is to be controlled. It is all Republicans now, the saying Democratic economists have heard to matter the other

long ago the news that the recovery of the GNP slowed markedly in the quarter of an election would have rung alarm bells over the country. This, however, it is being re-visited with relief by people who, even four years ago, might have been called for more stimulus to the economy slipping

Ford Administration is lary proud of the fact believes it has persuaded western leaders to do it—do to forgo the tion of a rapid refation concentrate instead on a of subduing inflation so avoid the catastrophic that too rapid refation o easily set off. not clear that the rest world has learnt, this as well as the Adminis- would like. Even at July two thirds of those ad in a recent con- fidence survey said o not give the Ford stration any credit for rent economic recovery not believe it will last. Democratic Party does pt the lesson either. If the recovery would appended anyway, and gh interest rates have much needed growth would have brought un-

Spending

At the same time the surge in consumer spending which followed the restocking of last year and kept the economy expanding so briskly in the first quarter came to a sudden, and largely unexpected and still unexplained, halt in April. This hiatus largely persisted in May (new car sales excepted) and the University of Michigan consumer confidence survey reported bleakly last month that it had found "persistently unfavourable long-term expectations about the economy and widespread lack of confidence in the Government's economic policies." But the latest figures suggest that spending is now



picking up with retail sales up 2.2 per cent in June over the month before, and up still more in the first week of July.

Consumer spending cannot of itself sustain the recovery indefinitely, and there has also been concern about the slow increase in new spending on capital plant and equipment. The latest, albeit fragmentary evidence, suggests that this too may now be picking up. U.S. Steel recently announced, for instance, a big new steel plant; sales of large lorries which traditionally preface a surge of capital spending are also doing well, and the forecasters of the Conference Board, which has close links with industry, has just issued a report which talked of clear signs of an increase in capital spending towards the end of the year.

Most economists agree with the Administration estimate that capital spending should be growing at an annual rate of between 8.5 per cent and 10

per cent by the end of 1976. If so, the Administration will be well pleased, because it is anxious to see a long smooth, build up of new investment, avoiding the "bunching" of new projects which can so easily cause bottlenecks and overheating the economy.

The slowing down of growth in the second quarter already seems to have removed some of the bottlenecks that were beginning to appear at the end of April, particularly in textiles, paper and chemicals. Latest estimates indicate that in the second quarter durable goods manufacturers were up to 76 per cent of capacity (73 per cent in the first quarter) but that non-durable producers have only fractionally increased their capacity utilisation to 86.2 per cent (from 85.8 per cent).

Such a capacity margin is very important, the Administration feels, if the country is to achieve its most important target of restraining inflation. The inflation rate has been increasing from the typically low 3.5 per cent level of the first few months of the year, but the harvest promises to be very good again this year, which should keep food prices down. The services component of the Consumer Price Index and the finished goods component of the Wholesale Price Index continue to cause some concern, but the Administration felt confident enough this month to revise downwards its inflation projection for the year suggesting that the Consumer Price Index will show a 5 per cent average increase over the year rather than the 5.9 per cent it was predicting in January.

The level of wage settlements is, of course, a key, and at the moment unpredictably variable. But the administration was well pleased by the collapse of the San Francisco municipal workers strike after the city refused to say what wages it demanded. The rubber workers' strike has now entered its third month with no sign of the company yielding and without any visible effect on the car industry. The triennial car workers' negotiations which began last Monday will probably not lead to a major confrontation, if for no other reason than that the United Autoworkers Union does not particularly want to embarrass the Democratic Party so close to an election.

But the unions, as a whole, will be fighting hard this autumn on the issue of unemployment. Within the Administration everyone, from President Ford to Dr. Arthur Burns, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, agrees that 7.5 per cent unemployment is too high, although they are convinced that the statistics almost certainly overstate the problem.

They reject, however, the Democratic Party remedy enshrined in the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill to which Mr. Carter has given his lukewarm

support. This calls for a programme of public and private job creation which by 1980 would reduce adult unemployment to 3 per cent. (that would work out at an overall rate of 4.5 per cent, if women and teenagers are included in the reckoning). If elected, Mr. Carter is more likely to concentrate assistance on those groups that need it most, and, to try to resist Congressional pressure for a large increase in Government spending to make new jobs. Needless to say the Republicans think this would be a disaster.

The Democratic nominee has also vowed to make the Federal Reserve Board more "responsive" to a Carter Administration. He wants the chairman's term to coincide with the President's, and he wants the Fed to be much more specific about its goals. For those who want to see what the Fed is up to, however, its reaction to the weekly Friday money supply figures gives an increasingly good guide. More and more corporate treasurers have noticed the clear link between the Fed's money supply targets and the movement of the Federal funds rate, which in turn affects the prime rate. Dr. Burns is now receiving some credit for his "fine tuning" and he remains optimistic about the pace of the recovery. Late last month he told a Senate committee that "prudent" fiscal and monetary policies of the kind now being applied could cut inflation to 4 per cent next year. But, he added, moderation was essential.

By and large, most of the main indicators support Dr. Burns' qualified optimism. Construction is still sluggish, but slowly picking up. Industrial

production was up only 0.3 per cent last month, but almost everyone agrees that was a temporary lull. The preliminary GNP figures released last Tuesday show the second quarter growth rate slowing to 4.5 per cent, but do not disturb the reckoning. The preliminary forecast that real GNP will grow by about 6.8 per cent over the year and by about 5.7 per cent next year. Finally, the index of leading economic indicators showed a healthy 1.4 per cent increase last month in the set of statistics it groups together which are intended to project future trends.

Havoc

Too firm a touch on the brake could still possibly abort the recovery, and there are some in Congress who think it may already have come close to so doing. A sudden evaporation of consumer confidence, lasting longer than that in May and April, could equally play havoc with the Administration's forecasts.

Mr. Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the council of economic advisers, vowed when he came to Washington that he would de-politicise this forecasting. He is widely praised for having done so, and the Ford Administration surely also deserves credit for keeping its nerve and not stimulating an election boom. But its motives have not been entirely altruistic. At its simplest the Administration view was put last week by a senior Treasury official: "We are all in the same canoe and if we don't paddle it properly this time we may all be having to swim for our lives."

Letters to the Editor

a kind of with

J. Baker White.
According to Mr. Joel the Chief Secretary to the Civil Service and a rise in local authority expenditure on salaries these figures are far blacker when a period than two years is

government staffs 1.8m. in mid-June, mid-June 1975 they had over 2.5m. The staff of the Civil Service and a rise in local authority expenditure on salaries these figures are far blacker when a period than two years is

£ million
1973-74 1976-77
(estimated)
36 1,857
73 3,706
75 5,722
(2021)

and aid in the year 1973-74 £389 £570
Pates school £63 £103
ng to the United Kingdom's share of 11.5 per cent in 1974 it was 4.6 Britain's share of the main manufacturing was 31.1 per cent in 1975. necessary to elaborate conclusions to be drawn a figures.
r White d Place, Street End, rbury, Kent.

ons and

General Secretary Union of Bank
is an interesting article tempts to get merger going with Lloyds' caution in your paper but also some rather nents from the staff a person.
te reason best known ves Lloyds Staff Asso- deliberately trying to scare about the fact ve a post entry colla- ment in the Co-opera- If they had asked id have told them that we were recognised by rative Bank in 1935 ken advantage of the logers' policy that all sections of the CWS ong to an appropriate ted union. This policy red legally invalid by industrial Relations Act w been reinstated in e repeal of that Act. sed that it has taken n Association 41 years n about something as in a bank in which not concerned.
as high a percentage ry membership as through all banks tal institutions. We uly never adopted d of policy in all cir- 4. What we have done

is where we have had a sufficiently high degree of voluntary membership and also had sole negotiating rights, then we have secured agency shop agreements. The best examples of these are the trustee savings banks and the Yorkshire Bank and I would suggest that if any staff association queries the efficacy of this, they check either with the staff or the bank managements themselves as to its operation. (I do incidentally recall Lloyds SA officials talking about the possibility of an agency shop in Lloyds Bank.)

Our total membership is in fact continuing to increase. At the end of 1975 our total membership was 101,923. At the end of June this year, it had risen to a net figure of 107,632. In the five English clearing banks it has risen in the same period from 59,871 to 63,837.

I emphasise that the purpose of our approach to Lloyds Staff Association was to see if they would at least discuss the possibility of jointing with us in an effort to resolve the problem of divided staff representation that has bedevilled banking for too long. Undoubtedly, there will be problems in any such discussions, but surely it is at least worth trying to see if we can solve these problems.

Leif Mills
Sheffield House,
Portsmouth Road,
Essex, Surrey.

Bad law rouses malevolence
From Mr. J. Cripps.
Sir—A generation of Englishmen fought to preserve us from subject obedience to bad law. While the majority may accept the concept of general obedience to the law, they also expect Government and those involved in a particular aspect of the law to attend to the concepts of justice, equity and common sense. When these forces are allowed to combine the law is willingly obeyed.

But the almost exclusively unacceptable nature of the system for the collection and administration of VAT requires action to be taken. If it is not taken by the Government and people like Mr. Christie (July 22) then surely it is fundamental to any system of democracy that some people will take action.

Mr. Christie talks about the normal democratic processes for changing the law; but does not apparently accept the idea of active protest. Yet active protest is often the quickest way to achieve a change.
It appears more likely that Mr. Christie and his cohorts increasingly require force of arms rather than force of reason to support their activities. If this is the case they deserve all the malevolence the taxpayer can muster.
Jeremy Cripps.
21, Mill Lane,
West Hampstead, N.W.6.

ment in passing that the financial assistance being offered to delegates attending the exhibition was on a far more generous scale than that offered by the U.K. Government to British manufacturers being overseas in attempts to raise our export performance, the main tenor of our complaint was that in the planning of Impo/Expo, insufficient attention had been given to the interests of our native consumer goods industries.

In the five years up to and including 1975, imports of leather goods into the U.K. from all sources, increased by 350 per cent, a trend which seems likely to continue. A proportion of these imports emanated from developing countries which have an important advantage in the markets of the U.K. and many other industrialised nations, in that they enjoy duty free entry, within certain quota limits, for their products. It would be unrealistic to expect leathergoods manufacturers, many of whom are fighting for survival because of escalating imports, to accept without deep concern a situation in which their foreign competitors are invited to the United Kingdom, with exceptionally generous financial inducements, for a three week stay, in the course of which they will be able to attend a marketing seminar which will demonstrate to them the importance of the products of our industry for the products of our industry.

I have no quarrel with Mr. Drew's comments about the need for British manufacturers to give more attention to design and marketing in an attempt to achieve the standards found in some other leading countries, or on the vital importance of co-operation between industrialised and industrialising nations, but it would be tragic for Britain if, in pursuance of such a policy, without appropriate safeguards, our old craft industries went to the wall. I am sure Mr. Drew would agree that the attitude of a suitcase, or handbag, manufacturer to the concept of Impo/Expo would be very different from that of a machine tool maker.

J. H. Keene.
Leather Trade House,
82, Borough High Street, S.E.1.

The merger market

From Mr. P. Franklin.
Sir—While Lex was quite right to focus attention on the revival of the merger market (July 19), I do not see how he is able to state that the Monopolies Commission is presently much more of a restraint against take-over activity "snowballing" than it was in 1972.

The mere fact that 315 acquisitions occurred last year, and four proposals were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (1.2 per cent), whereas in 1972, some 1,210 acquisitions took place, and only two proposals were referred (0.16 per cent), owes much to stiffer anti-trust and monopolies legislation adopted in the 1973 Fair Trading Act. The changed monopoly criterion—previously defined as a market share equal to or greater than 33 1/3 per cent, and now reduced to 25 per cent of the market—does seem to have affected the number of mergers falling under the terms of the new legislation. Thus in 1972, only 112 merger proposals fell under the criteria of the 1965 Act; in 1975 some 137

proposals came under the criteria of the Fair Trading Act. A priori, these latter (surprising) comparative figures may be explained by the average value of potential mergers increasing over these years, hence being caught by the alternative, size of assets, criterion under which mergers might also be referred. Evidence on actual mergers, however, does not support this hypothesis. Average purchase price or expenditure on mergers in 1972 was about £2m; while in 1975 average expenditure on mergers and acquisitions was less than £1m.

Whether it is possible, then, to believe the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is now more officious than in earlier years (for example, the peak year of 1972), is surely more open to debate than Lex possibly presumed.

Peter J. Franklin.
Senior Lecturer in Economics,
City of London Polytechnic,
School of Business Studies,
84, Moorgate, E.C.2.

Dept. of Trade inspectors

From Mr. R. Instone.
Sir—The chairman of the Stock Exchange has proposed in his letter to Mr. Edmund Leach that inspectors should henceforth be appointed with "terms of reference strictly limited to the establishment and recital of facts." In taking this stance Mr. Gosden has the support of judicial authority no less than of natural justice.

As long ago as 1897 the then Master of the Rolls, Lord Esher, defined the scope of the corresponding provisions of the Companies Act 1882 (which were not materially different from those now in force) in these terms: "The object of the inquiry which the Board of Trade has authority to order is to examine into and ascertain facts to enable the inspector to make a report of his opinion to the Board of Trade. That is all." And in the case concerning the St. Martins Preserving Company in 1964, counsel for the Board of Trade, in citing this earlier authority, himself submitted that an investigation "was intended as a fact-finding inquiry... to discover what was going on." (1965 1 QB at page 512).

If this form of investigation is not to fall into disrepute, it is essential that the Department of Trade should recognise its proper limits when framing the inspectors' terms of reference. And if the Department fails to do so, the inspectors must impose their own restraints on the scope and contents of their reports.

Ralph Instone,
12, Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2.

Post Office profits

From Mr. E. Lewis.
Sir—Good news that the Post Office has reported a profitable year.
If it were now to announce a modest reduction in postal rates and STD telephone call rates, it would indeed produce a surge of good will between the Post Office and the public. It would also be good business, for the surest way to stimulate spending is by reducing prices.
A special Christmas card postal rate, operative up to a certain date if necessary, would also be a welcome gesture and would increase Post Office revenue.
E. Lewis.
Fintro Ltd.
World Trade Centre,
St. Katherine-by-The-Tower, E.1.

To-day's Events

GENERAL
The Queen returns from visit to Canada.
EBC Finance and Economics Ministers meet, Brussels.
Labour Party-TUC Liaison Committee meets.
Prime Minister meets doctors' leaders to discuss industrial action in hospitals.
Scottish National Party MPs consider Government proposals for decentralisation of shipbuilding industry after nationalisation.
British Airports Authority annual report.
Court of Appeal hearing against High Court decision that agreement selling Felixstowe Docks to British Transport Docks Board is valid.
High Court considers proposed scheme of arrangement under which Kearney and Trecker Mar- win would be denationalised.
Sir Lindsay Ring, Lord Mayor of London, on visit to South America.
Professional Association of Teachers' conference, Coventry.
PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS
House of Commons: Dock Work Regulation Bill, remaining stages.
House of Lords: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, third reading. Stock Exchange (Completion of Bargains) Bill, second reading.

COMPANY RESULT
Hall-Thermotank (half-year).
COMPANY MEETINGS
See Week's Financial Diary on page 10.
BALLET
Marrha Graham Dance Company perform Clytemnestra, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, W.C.2, 7.30 p.m.
Australasian Ballet dance The Merry Widow, London Palladium, Argyll Street, W.1, 7.30 p.m.
Dance Sengal, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1, 7.30 p.m.

MUSIC
Phillip Pilkington gives piano recital of music by Stravinsky and Chopin, St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, E.C.2, 1 p.m.
Lindsay String Quartet play music by Haydn, Tippett and Beethoven, Wigmore Hall, W.1, 7.30 p.m.
SPORT
Cricket: Fourth Test, England v. West Indies, Headingley, Third Test (women), England v. Australia, Oval. Golf: Scottish Coca-Cola tournament, East Kilbride. Tennis: British junior championships, Bantborough.

HEAD OFFICE:
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Telex: J22500
DOMESTIC BRANCHES:
191 branches throughout Japan
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One World Trade Center, Suite 8527, New York, N.Y. 10048 U.S.A.
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Telex: 323288, 420387
Los Angeles Agency
800 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90017, U.S.A.
Tel: 213-621-1200
Telex: 067385, 067424
Chicago Representative Office
One First National Plaza, Suite 2506, Chicago, Illinois 60602, U.S.A.
Tel: 312-263-2522 Telex: 0256357
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Telex: 37210
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Nusantara Bldg., 19th Floor, Jalan M. H. Thamrin No. 59, Jakarta, Indonesia. Tel: 54521-5
Erl: 4359-62 Telex: 7346255
Sydney Representative Office
34th Level Australia Square, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000, Australia
Tel: 27-8786 Telex: 27524

MITSUBISHI BANK

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 1976

Assets		
Cash and Due from Banks	¥ 816,286,124,000	(\$ 1,421,359,000)
Call Loans	49,713,926,000	(85,564,000)
Securities	1,009,786,169,000	(1,758,291,000)
Loans and Bills Discounted	5,608,212,008,000	(9,765,300,000)
Foreign Exchanges	547,047,301,000	(952,546,000)
Domestic Exchange Settlement a/c, Dr.	137,223,257,000	(238,940,000)
Bank Premises and Real Estate	131,696,756,000	(229,317,000)
Other Assets	36,145,560,000	(62,939,000)
Customers' Liabilities for Acceptances and Guarantees	1,173,647,731,000	(2,043,614,000)
Total	¥9,509,758,832,000	(\$16,558,870,000)
Liabilities		
Deposits	¥ 6,558,259,179,000	(\$11,419,570,000)
Call Money	271,241,380,000	(472,299,000)
Borrowed Money	752,668,563,000	(1,310,584,000)
Foreign Exchanges	28,729,924,000	(50,026,000)
Domestic Exchange Settlement a/c, Cr.	86,496,404,000	(150,612,000)
Other Liabilities	245,551,271,000	(427,566,000)
Reserve for Possible Loan Losses	78,003,045,000	(135,823,000)
Reserve for Retirement Allowances	36,058,479,000	(62,787,000)
Other Reserves	22,920,599,000	(39,911,000)
Acceptances and Guarantees	1,173,647,731,000	(2,043,614,000)
Capital (paid-up)	66,000,000,000	(114,923,000)
Surplus	190,182,257,000	(331,155,000)
Total	¥9,509,758,832,000	(\$16,558,870,000)

Notes: Accounts consolidated at The Mitsubishi Bank of California (U.S.A.), Mitsubishi Bank (Europe) S.A., and Banco Mitsubishi Brasileiro S.A.
Exchange Rate: ¥ 374.36 per \$ center rate on March 31, 1976

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This document contains particulars of the proposed offer of shares in the company to the public and is subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 1965 and the Companies (Offers of Shares) Regulations 1965. It is not to be construed as an offer of shares in the company to the public and is not to be used for the purpose of raising money for the company. A copy of this Offer for Sale, having attached thereto the documents referred to below, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration.

Borthwicks

THOMAS BORTHWICK & SONS, LIMITED

(Registered in England No. 233714)

Offer for Sale

by

MORGAN GRENFELL & CO. LIMITED

of 15,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 50p each at 80p per share payable in full on application.

The Ordinary Shares now offered for sale rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared, made or paid on the Ordinary Shares of Borthwicks.

The Application List for the Ordinary Shares now offered for sale will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 29th July, 1976 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

SHARE CAPITAL

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Ordinary Shares of Borthwicks, issued and now being issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

Authorised

£22,000,000 in 44,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 50p each

Issued and now being

issued fully paid

£17,512,500

Indebtedness At 25th June, 1976, Borthwicks and its subsidiaries had outstanding a secured loan of £38,000, unsecured bank loans of £8,052,000, liabilities under acceptances or acceptance credits of £10,052,000, other unsecured bank indebtedness of £32,362, contingent liabilities for bills discounted, guarantees given and amounts uncalled on partly paid shares of £4,588,000. In addition, at that date, Borthwicks had outstanding a secured guarantee of an unsecured bank loan to a subsidiary amounting to £39,000. Liabilities in currencies have been translated into sterling at official rates of exchange ruling on 25th June, 1976. Save for the foregoing and for intra-group transactions, neither Borthwicks nor any of its subsidiaries had outstanding at that date any borrowings or indebtedness in the form of borrowing, including bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances (other than normal trade bills) or acceptance credits, mortgages, charges, hire purchase commitments, or guarantees or other material contingent liabilities.

Directors

WILLIAM ALEXANDER BULLEN (Chairman),
Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

SIR JOHN THOMAS BORTHWICK, Bart.,
Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL FLEMING,
Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

NORMAN HARRY HUNT, O.B.E.,
Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

DUNCAN SIDNEY ALEXANDER MCFARLANE (Australian),
6 Logan Street, Canterbury, Victoria 3126, Australia.

IAN EDMOND ORR MCKELLAR (New Zealander),
Riversdale, Huntingdon, No. 4, R.D., Ashburton, New Zealand.

JULIAN RUSSELL STURGIS,
Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

Principal Bankers

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES,
425 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
318-324 Lambton Quay, Wellington, New Zealand.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND,
Lambton Quay, Wellington, New Zealand.

BARCLAYS BANK INTERNATIONAL LIMITED,
120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10005, U.S.A.

CITIBANK N.A.,
389 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED,
335 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LIMITED,
343 George Street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED,
60/62 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED,
8 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DB.

THE TORONTO DOMINION BANK,
55 King Street West and Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Receiving Bankers to the Offer for Sale

MORGAN GRENFELL & CO. LIMITED,
New Issue Department, 4 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2NL.

Brokers

ROWE & PITMAN, HURST-BROWN,
City Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA,
and The Stock Exchange.

LAJING & CRUICKSHANK,
The Stock Exchange, London EC2N 1HA.

POTTER PARTNERS,
325 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Solicitors to Borthwicks

LINKLATER & PAINES,
Barrington House, 68/67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

Solicitors to the Offer

SLAUGHTER AND MAY,
35 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DB.

Auditors and Reporting Accountants

DELOITTE & CO., Chartered Accountants,
P.O. Box 207, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX.

Secretary and Registered Office

MICHAEL FRANCIS CAVE, F.C.C.A., A.C.M.A., A.T.I.L.,
Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

Registrars and Transfer Office

M & WM SERVICES, Granby House, 96 Southwark Street, London SE10 1JA.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The following is a copy of a letter to Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited from Dr. W. A. Bullen, the Chairman of Thomas Borthwick & Sons, Limited:—

The Directors,
Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited.

Gentlemen,

In connection with the Offer for Sale of 15,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 50p each in Thomas Borthwick & Sons, Limited ("Borthwicks"), I have pleasure in giving you the following information in relation to Borthwicks and its subsidiaries ("the Group"):

HISTORY

Borthwicks has its origins in a meat and livestock trading business started in Liverpool by Thomas Borthwick in the 1860s. Towards the end of the century, following the development of refrigerated ships, Thomas Borthwick expanded the business into the shipment of the United Kingdom of frozen and chilled meat from New Zealand and Australia. Later, as a logical extension of the business, meat processing works were established in New Zealand and Australia.

After 1914, livestock production interests in Australia were developed by the acquisition of cattle stations. These were sold in 1964 to Stanbrooke Pastoral Co. Pty. Limited ("Stanbrooke"), a company founded in that year by Borthwicks jointly with Australian Mutual Provident Society and two pastoral concerns. Borthwicks currently owns 36 per cent. of Stanbrooke.

After the Second World War, Borthwicks developed its marketing operations in areas of the world other than Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and there are now marketing and selling divisions or agencies in some 40 countries.

BUSINESS

The Group's business comprises the purchasing and processing of livestock, mainly cattle, sheep and lambs, and the marketing of meat and by-products. Purchasing and processing is carried out in Australia and New Zealand (in excess of 70 per cent. of the Group's assets are located in these countries) and to a significant but lesser extent in the United Kingdom. The Group's total sales in the year ended 30th September, 1975, amounted to £207 million, of which some 60 per cent. were made outside the United Kingdom.

The Group is organised on a divisional basis, according to the geographical location of its activities. There are three producing divisions, in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and these are responsible for purchasing livestock, for the operation of the meat processing works and for marketing and selling the Group's products in domestic and in certain export markets. There are separate marketing and selling divisions in the United States, Canada, Japan and France, which are important markets for the Group's products. The business as a whole is co-ordinated from International Headquarters in London.

The meat trade in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are supervised by statutory authorities. In Australia and the United Kingdom, the respective authorities influence the industry to a relatively small extent, but the New Zealand Meat Producers Board, which consists of six members elected by farmers, two government nominees and one representative from the dairy industry, regulates and influences the industry to a large extent. This authority amongst other things makes recommendations to the Minister of

Agriculture regarding licences for meat processing works, encourages the development of new export markets, allocates between suppliers shipments to some of the major world markets, and operates various schemes aimed at stabilising livestock prices.

Purchasing

The Group has its own buying organisations within the producing divisions in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, giving wide coverage of the livestock markets in those countries. Livestock is purchased either directly from the farm or at auction. The table below shows the approximate number of animals purchased by the Group in the three years ended 30th September, 1975:—

year ended 30th September	1973	1974	1975
Australian division			
Cattle	424,000	320,000	439,000
Sheep	2,027,000	1,027,000	1,543,000
Lambs	813,000	848,000	940,000
New Zealand division			
Cattle	291,000	207,000	258,000
Sheep	1,989,000	1,541,000	1,168,000
Lambs	6,242,000	4,404,000	5,367,000
United Kingdom division			
Cattle	85,000	58,000	123,000
Sheep	46,000	31,000	19,000
Lambs	240,000	282,000	372,000

Livestock buying prices are decided by the local branch management in close consultation with the divisional head office, which is in turn informed of market prospects by International Headquarters in London. In Australia and the United Kingdom, each purchase contract is normally negotiated separately but, in New Zealand, the Group, in common with other meat exporters, publishes a weekly schedule of prices at which the Group will buy livestock. If producers do not wish to sell at the scheduled prices, there are arrangements whereby they can ship independently or through co-operatives. There are other arrangements whereby The New Zealand Meat Producers Board may acquire meat for its own account if the prices offered by exporters fall below certain levels established by the Board from time to time. In these circumstances, the Group and other meat companies purchase and process the livestock. The resultant meat is sold to the Board, but normally the meat exporting companies, including the Group, market the meat on its behalf.

There is generally a good supply of livestock in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, but from time to time extreme weather conditions during the breeding and rearing seasons may affect the size of the flocks and herds, and other economic factors may influence the producers' decisions as to the number of animals sold.

The Group also trades in meat purchased from other processors in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and from other areas of the world. This year, these activities are expected to represent approximately 12 per cent. of the Group's total sales, compared with approximately 6 per cent. last year.

Processing

The Group owns six meat processing works in Australia and three in New Zealand, and owns or leases seven slaughterhouses in the United Kingdom. The meat works in Australia and New Zealand, all of which process livestock largely for export, include extensive freezing, chilling and packing plant. The slaughterhouses in the United Kingdom, however, are much smaller and supply fresh meat predominantly for local consumption.

In the three years ended 30th September, 1975, the following numbers of cattle, sheep and lambs were processed through the Group's works:—

year ended 30th September	1973	1974	1975
Australian division			
Cattle	380,000	274,000	478,000
Sheep	1,837,000	981,000	1,532,000
Lambs	601,000	585,000	761,000
New Zealand division			
Cattle	188,000	156,000	198,000
Sheep	1,892,000	1,428,000	1,024,000
Lambs	1,861,000	1,428,000	1,624,000
United Kingdom division			
Cattle	83,000	57,000	119,000
Sheep	39,000	31,000	18,000
Lambs	236,000	281,000	352,000

The meat produced by the Australian and United Kingdom divisions is derived from livestock purchased by the Group and processed mainly through its own works. However, a large proportion of the livestock purchased by the New Zealand division is processed at other companies' meat works. The Group pays a treatment charge for this service and, in addition to the meat, normally retains ownership of the hides and skins. Conversely some 16 per cent. of the throughput of the Group's New Zealand works represents livestock owned by other traders and processed by the Group for a treatment charge.

From the processing of cattle, sheep and lambs, the Group produces a wide range of by-products. These include speciality meats, such as liver and kidney, and hides, skins, bone and meat meal and tallow. Certain other by-products are used as the basis of products such as sausage skins, surgical sutures, heparin, insulin, pet food and clothing. The French division, based at Mazamet, specialises in the sale of Australian sheep skins. Borthwicks also has investments in a number of New Zealand companies which use the Group's by-products as raw material. By-products account for some 20 per cent. of annual sales.

Because of the seasonal nature of livestock production, the level of activity at the processing works, particularly in New Zealand, varies considerably throughout the year. In New Zealand, the main killing season for lamb skins from October to May, activity being at its greatest in November, December and January, and the main killing season for cattle skins from February to July. As a result, the works operate at or near capacity from November to June but are relatively quiet for the remainder of the year. In Australia and the United Kingdom, however, the seasonal fluctuations are generally less marked.

In New Zealand, the shipment of lamb to the United Kingdom and of beef to the United States is regulated by The New Zealand Meat Producers Board. Because of this and the relatively short production season for lamb, the level of stocks varies throughout the year, being at a peak in March and April. The Group therefore has considerable storage capacity at its works in New Zealand, and meat is also stored at outside works.

In order to retain its export licences, it is necessary for the Group to maintain particularly high standards of hygiene at its processing works, especially for export to the United States and Europe. All works in Australia and New Zealand are licensed for export, and the two largest slaughterhouses in the United Kingdom are licensed for export to other E.E.C. countries. Borthwicks has a continuing programme of modernisation, which includes capital expenditure necessary to keep abreast of improving hygiene standards.

Marketing

The Group's total sales in the year ended 30th September, 1975, amounted to some £207 million. Export sales (meat and other products sold outside the country of production) accounted for some £123 million and domestic sales (meat and other products sold in the country of production for some £84 million).

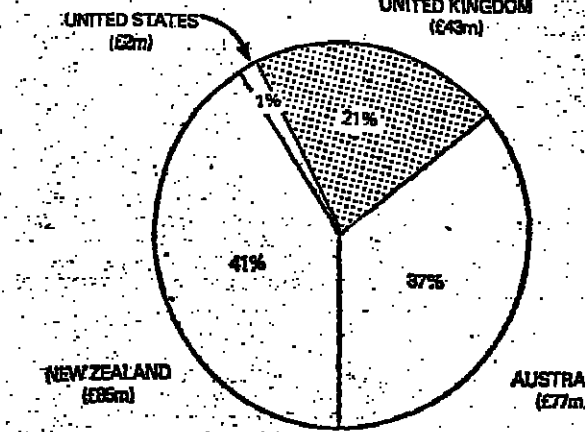
The Group's sales of meat and speciality meats, expressed in tonnes, have in each year since 1971, as shown by the following table:—

year ended 30th September	1971	1972	1973	1974
Meat and speciality meats sold (tonnes)	274,000	279,000	299,000	323,000

Only a small percentage of total world consumption of meat is imported and meat is processed and consumed in the country of production. Australia and the United Kingdom account for a major and growing proportion of world meat exports, a per cent. of the Group's sales originates in those countries. The United Kingdom's principal export markets for New Zealand lamb (accounting for 25% of the Group's sales in 1975), and the United States is the Group's principal export market for New Zealand beef (accounting for 25% of the Group's sales in 1975). The Group's sales of meat and speciality meats in 1975 were distributed as follows:—

The diagrams and tables below indicate the sales of the various products analysed by country of origin and by market, in the year ended 30th September 1975. Figures (where applicable, domestic sales as well as exports:—

SALES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



	Beef and Veal	Lamb and Mutton	By-products and other items	Total
Australia	48 (50)	12 (36)	19 (36)	79
New Zealand	19 (20)	44 (22)	22 (41)	85
United Kingdom	26 (28)	5 (8)	12 (23)	43
United States	2 (2)	—	—	2
TOTAL	95	67	53	207

*Including the sales of Freshfields Foods Limited (see below).

100/100/100

Borthwick's

Notes on balance sheets

(a) Fixed assets are stated at cost, less any government grants received, or valuation, less accumulated depreciation as follows:—

	The Group						31st March
	30th September	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Freehold properties	At cost	5,843	6,697	7,704	1,525	3,464	4,574
At valuation 1954/56	4,620	4,570	4,620	4,620	4,620	4,620	4,620
Aggregate depreciation	(5,051)	(5,051)	(5,051)	(5,051)	(5,051)	(5,051)	(5,051)
Net book value	5,412	5,766	6,138	14,157	14,506	14,965	15,593
Leasehold properties	At cost	220	228	233	315	377	380
At valuation 1954/56	43	42	44	53	49	45	47
At valuation 1972/73	(96)	(73)	(57)	(54)	(72)	(97)	(102)
Aggregate depreciation	197	197	226	314	254	334	324
Net book value	10,075	11,300	13,582	17,205	18,387	21,447	22,029
Plant and equipment	At cost	1,737	1,672	1,735	1,734	1,517	1,557
At valuation 1954/56	(6,802)	(7,578)	(8,018)	(11,185)	(11,909)	(12,544)	(14,794)
Aggregate depreciation	5,010	5,894	6,269	7,312	8,395	9,620	9,865
Net book value	10,619	11,349	12,953	22,285	23,866	25,013	25,696
Total							

(b) Interests in subsidiaries consist of:—

	31st March, 1976
Shareholdings at valuation, representing net book value of assets of subsidiaries at 30th September, 1975	18,524
Amounts due from subsidiaries	6,910
Deduct: Amounts due to subsidiaries	(2,434)
	16,430

(c) Trade investments consist of:—

	31st March, 1976
Unlisted, at cost:—	5,000
Starbroke Pastoral Co. Pty. Limited	2,117
The Canterbury Frozen Meat Company Limited	2,883
Others	114
Listed, at cost	3,629
Total	7,770
Directors' valuation of unlisted investments	4,080
Quoted middle market value	94

Footnotes:—

(i) The increase in the amount of trade investments at 30th September, 1973 arose mainly from the acquisition (for cash) of additional shares in Starbroke Pastoral Co. Pty. Limited and the acquisition (in exchange for certain fixed assets) of the interest in The Canterbury Frozen Meat Company Limited.

(ii) Although The Canterbury Frozen Meat Company Limited is a listed New Zealand company, the Group's investment is regarded by the Directors as unlisted because of an agreement not to sell the shares and to waive dividends for a period of 5 years from October 1972.

(iii) Amounts included on partly paid shares at 31st March, 1976 amounted to £371,000, mainly in respect of Starbroke Pastoral Co. Pty. Limited.

(d) Long term loans made consist of:—

	31st March, 1976
Deposits as collateral for Borthwick's guarantee of unsecured bank loan (interest at 8 per cent. per annum) made to a subsidiary	575
Mortgage loan to The Canterbury Frozen Meat Company Limited (see footnote)	8
Other loans	583
	1,112

The mortgage loan to The Canterbury Frozen Meat Company Limited is interest free until 1977 and then bears interest at 8 per cent. per annum. The loan is repayable in 1982 but the Group may call for earlier repayment in order to subscribe for additional shares issued by the borrower.

(e) Of the total stocks of £24,553,000 at 31st March, 1976, £28,998,000 was covered by assets of the Group.

(f) Debtors include an amount of £298,000 at 31st March, 1976 representing the total amount in Whitebark Estates Limited which has been liquidated since 1974 for a sum of £500,000 including repayment of inter-company indebtedness.

(g) The mortgage loan is repayable over 20 years from 1971 to 1990 in equal annual instalments, and bears interest at 8 per cent. per annum on the balance outstanding.

(h) Unsecured bank loans are repayable more than one year but less than five years from the date of the balance sheet date. At 31st March, 1976, £1,000,000 was payable at 8 per cent. per annum, £1,000,000 at 8 per cent. per annum and £774 per cent. per annum £2,800,000.

(i) The net tangible assets of the Group at 31st March, 1976 include net tangible assets of £24,088,000.

(j) At 31st March, 1976, the Group had estimated United Kingdom tax losses available for carry forward against future profits of the subsidiaries concerned at £3,100,000, of which tax on £1,600,000 had been set off against trading differences in calculating deferred taxation.

(k) Revenue profits (losses) of the Group retained and other amounts added to or deducted from reserves are:—

	30th September	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Reserves and undistributed profits at beginning of period	12,405	10,588	13,128	13,128	13,128	13,128
Revenue profits (losses)	1,022	2,538	6,213	(11,000)	1,511	—
Surplus on revaluation of properties less deferred taxation thereon	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amounts capitalised and applied in paying up in full bonus issue of shares	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reserves and undistributed profits at end of period	13,427	13,128	19,341	2,128	14,639	14,639

Unrealised profits (losses) arising from the revaluation of certain fixed assets and included in the above reserves, amounted to approximately £1 million net of taxation at 31st March, 1976.

(l) The Group had contingent liabilities at 31st March, 1976 consisting of:—

	31st March, 1976
Bills discounted	—
Guarantees given	—
The Group had proposed capital expenditure at 31st March, 1976 comprising:—	—
Contracted for but not provided for in the accounts	—
Authorised by the Directors but not contracted for	—

6. SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

	The Group				
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Source of funds:—					
Profit (loss) before tax and extraordinary items	1,840	4,025	8,515	(12,303)	4,688
Adjustments for items not involving the movement of funds:—					
Depreciation	1,882	1,755	1,935	2,332	2,689
Transfer to provisions and amounts written off investments	327	309	43	43	—
Unrealised exchange differences	54	333	2,390	(1,242)	(1,548)
Total generated from (absorbed in) operations	1,069	6,422	12,943	(10,970)	6,229
Net increase (decrease) in long term loans received and made	(112)	(112)	(497)	579	(108)
	957	6,310	12,446	(10,391)	6,121
Application of funds:—					
Dividends paid	186	182	172	184	167
Tax paid	672	215	2,127	3,103	220
Purchase of fixed assets, less sales at book value	3,020	1,805	2,456	5,832	3,444
Purchase of investments	85	83	618	304	443
Purchase of subsidiary and minority interest	—	—	3,725	—	—
	3,863	2,301	6,193	9,423	4,214
Increase (decrease) in working capital:—					
Increase (decrease) in stocks	2,230	1,528	15,522	(18,588)	(1,468)
Increase (decrease) in debtors	688	3,276	5,913	(6,178)	3,580
Decrease (increase) in creditors	(823)	(1,269)	(1,549)	863	(2,889)
	2,195	3,535	17,626	(23,423)	(2,595)
Decrease (increase) in short term borrowing	(5,189)	511	(11,582)	2,192	4,686
	957	6,310	12,446	(10,391)	6,121

Footnote:— The above figures include foreign currency amounts translated at average rates of exchange for the respective accounting periods.

7. ACCOUNTS

The audited accounts of Borthwick's or any of its subsidiaries have been made up in respect of any period subsequent to 31st March, 1976.

Yours faithfully,
DELOITTE & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Appendices

APPENDIX I

PRINCIPAL PROPERTIES OCCUPIED BY THE GROUP

The principal properties occupied by the Group are (freehold unless otherwise stated):—

	Land in acres	Approx. area of premises in square feet
Australia		
Bowen	1,196	215,000
Mackay	214	63,000
Brisbane	131	333,000
Brooklyn (Melbourne)	47	486,000
Portland	239	356,000
Albany	17	187,000
Pipe Road (Melbourne)	24	156,000
Melbourne		13,800
New Zealand		
Felding	240	650,000
Waitara	165	614,500
Waingava	476	648,500
Wellington		19,000
United Kingdom		
Widchess	0.3	6,000
Llangrini	1.4	6,400
Cole	10.6	60,400
Pontefract	1.9	7,200
Whitstone, Leics.	2.3	11,700
Swindon	2.4	13,800
London		
(Priory House)	26,350	
Galashiels	25,000	
Stratford-on-Avon	25,000	
Home Bay	20,400	

The Group also owns or occupies a number of other properties which are not material in size. Thomas Borthwick & Sons (U.K.) Limited occupies 20 sales depots and a number of other small properties located throughout the United Kingdom, and Freehold owns or occupies 6 sales and distribution depots, mainly in the South and Midlands. The sales divisions in the United States, Canada, Japan and France each occupy small rented offices, and Thomas Borthwick & Sons Limited (France) S.A.R.L. owns an office building in Marnay, France. Thomas Borthwick & Sons (Australia) Limited leases 3 housing units in Adelaide, Sydney and Wagga Wagga, and owns or leases a number of other small properties in Australia.

APPENDIX II

PRO-FORMA BALANCE SHEET

The pro-forma balance sheet set out below shows the consolidated balance sheet of the Group as at 31st March, 1976, adjusted for the capitalisation of reserves on 14th June, 1976 (referred to in Appendix IV) and for the revaluation of new shares. It has been assumed that the net proceeds of the issue (£3,446,000) have been applied in full in reducing bank loans and overdrafts:—

	£000
Fixed assets	25,696
Trade investments	3,770
Long term loans	1,112
Current assets	30,580
Stocks	44,953
Debtors	18,832
Bank balances and cash	344
	66,129
Current liabilities and provisions	26,262
Bank loans and overdrafts	10,341
Bills payable and acceptances	15,838
Creditors	2,385
Other current liabilities and provisions	54,327
Net current assets	70,212
Other liabilities and provisions	40,782
	6,492
Net tangible assets	34,300
Deferred taxation	5,327
Minority interests in subsidiaries	28,973
	716
Attributable to shareholders of Borthwick's	28,257
Representing:—	
Share capital	17,513
Share premium account	3,071
Reserves	7,673
	28,257

APPENDIX III

PROFIT FORECAST

1. FORECAST AND ASSUMPTIONS

The forecast of profits of the Group for the year ending 30th September, 1976, included in the Chairman's letter, has been compiled on a basis consistent with the accounting policies normally adopted by the Group and includes results shown by audited interim accounts for the six months ended 31st March, 1976 and unaudited management accounts for the three months ended 30th June, 1976. The principal assumptions upon which the Directors have based their forecast are the following:—

- no abnormal economic circumstances will affect the forecast levels of the total market size, the Group's share thereof, or the prices at which sales will be effected;
- there will be no unforeseen additional material restrictions or relaxation of existing restrictions on the import or export of the Group's products;
- any government measures which may be introduced to counter inflation will not adversely affect the Group's results;
- wage settlements will not exceed existing government recommendations;
- there will be no major disruption of the Group's business either in the United Kingdom or overseas by reason of industrial disputes involving either the Group or any of its suppliers of goods, transportation or other services;
- the supply of livestock will not be materially affected by abnormal weather conditions;
- the present levels of interest rates in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Canada will remain substantially unchanged;
- there will be no material change in the present exchange rates between the pound sterling, the Australian dollar, the New Zealand dollar and the United States dollar; and
- there will be sufficient shipping space available for the Group's forecast exports.

2. LETTERS

The following are copies of letters from (a) Deloitte & Co. and (b) Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited concerning the profit forecast:—

(a) DELOITTE & CO.
P.O. Box 207,
128 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4P 4JQ.

The Directors,
THOMAS BORTHWICK & SONS, LIMITED
Gentlemen,

We have reviewed the accounting bases and calculations for the profit forecast (for which the Directors are solely responsible) of Thomas Borthwick & Sons, Limited and its subsidiaries ("the Group") for the year ending 30th September, 1976 contained in the letter from Dr. W. A. Bullen to Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited set out in the Offer for Sale dated 22nd July, 1976. The forecast includes results shown by audited interim accounts for the six months ended 31st March, 1976 and unaudited management accounts for the three months ended 30th June, 1976. In our opinion, the forecast, so far as the accounting bases and calculations are concerned, has been properly compiled on the footing of the assumptions made by the Board set out in the Offer for Sale document and is presented on a basis consistent with the accounting policies normally adopted by the Group.

Yours faithfully,
DELOITTE & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

(b) MORGAN GRENFELL & CO. LIMITED,
22 Great Winchester Street,
London EC2P 2JQ.

The Directors,
THOMAS BORTHWICK & SONS, LIMITED
Gentlemen,

We refer to the forecast of the profit of Thomas Borthwick & Sons, Limited and its subsidiaries for the year ending 30th September, 1976 contained in the letter from Dr. W. A. Bullen to us dated 22nd July, 1976. We have discussed with officers of your company the bases and assumptions upon which the forecast is based, having regard to the assumptions made by the Directors and to the accounting bases and calculations reviewed by Deloitte & Co., and we are satisfied that the profit forecast, for which you are solely responsible, has been made by you with due care and consideration.

Yours faithfully,
For MORGAN GRENFELL & CO. LIMITED,
PATRICK SPENS,
Director.

APPENDIX IV

STATUTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

CAPITAL HISTORY

1. Borthwick's was registered in England on 1st October, 1938 under the Companies Act 1908 to 1917 with an authorised share capital of £1,750,000 divided into 1,750,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which 1,750,000 were issued fully paid on 5th October, 1938. The authorised capital was increased by £1,250,000 to £3,000,000 on 18th December, 1970, on which date 825,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each were allotted credited as fully paid by way of capitalisation of reserves. The authorised capital was further increased by £8,000,000 to £11,000,000 on 20th December, 1973, on which date 7,425,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each were allotted credited as fully paid by way of capitalisation of reserves. Immediately prior to 14th June, 1976, the authorised share capital was £11,000,000 divided into 11,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which 9,900,000 were issued.

2. On 14th June, 1976, the authorised capital was increased by £11,000,000 to £22,000,000, and

- each Ordinary Share of £1 was sub-divided into two Ordinary Shares of 50p each;
- 2,475,000 Ordinary Shares of 50p each were allotted credited as fully paid by way of capitalisation of reserves; and
- subject to listing, new Articles of Association were adopted.

AGREEMENT WITH MORGAN GRENFELL & CO. LIMITED

Under contract (ii) below, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited ("Morgan Grenfell") has agreed, subject to the admission to the Official List of the whole of the Ordinary Shares of Borthwick's, issued and now being issued, not later than 30th July, 1976, to purchase from certain shareholders of Borthwick's a total of 2,500,000 Ordinary Shares at a price of 78.4p per share and to subscribe for 12,750,000 new Ordinary Shares of Borthwick's at a price of 78.4p per share and to offer the whole of such shares for sale to the public at 80p per share. The costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to this Offer for Sale, including the costs of preparing, printing, circulating and advertising this Offer for Sale and other documents in connection therewith, the increase in and reorganisation of the share capital of Borthwick's, the adoption of new Articles of Association, all accountancy expenses, the Registrars' fees and expenses, Borthwick's own legal expenses, the fees payable to The Stock Exchange and a fee to Morgan Grenfell (including a fee and its expenses for acting as receiving bankers) are estimated to amount to £550,000 and are payable by Borthwick's. Morgan Grenfell will pay an underwriting commission of 1% per cent. on the offer price of each share, less to the brokers and its own legal expenses.

DIRECTORS' AND OTHER INTERESTS

The interests of the Directors in the share capital of Borthwick's immediately after the Offer for Sale as they will appear in the register maintained under the provisions of the Companies Act 1957 (excluding any shares for which any of the Directors may decide to apply under this Offer for Sale) are as follows:—

	Beneficial	Non-Beneficial
W. A. Bullen	—	—
Sir John Borthwick, Bart.	77,925	882,470
C. M. Fleming	159,336	—
N. H. Hunt	—	—
D. S. A. McFarlane	—	—
L. E. O. McKellar	—	—
J. R. Sturgis	60,616	—

Following this Offer for Sale, Whitebark Investments Limited, a Borthwick family investment company, will own beneficially 11,294,061 Ordinary Shares in Borthwick's, representing 22.2 per cent. of the issued share capital of Borthwick's. W. A. Bullen, Sir John Borthwick, Bart. and C. M. Fleming are Directors of Whitebark Investments Limited and are interested in an aggregate of 2,020,283 Ordinary Shares of 50p each in Whitebark Investments Limited, representing 17.4 per cent. of the issued share capital of that company. In addition, J. R. Sturgis is interested in 200,001 Ordinary Shares of 50p each in Whitebark Investments Limited.

Save as disclosed herein, the Directors are not aware of any shareholding which will represent more than 10 per cent. of the issued share capital of Borthwick's, as enlarged.

The interests of the Directors of Borthwick's in the share capital of Freshbake Foods Limited are as follows:—

	Beneficial	Non-Beneficial
W. A. Bullen	15,000	—
Sir John Borthwick, Bart.	25,000	—
N. H. Hunt	2,000	—

Save as disclosed herein, no Director of Borthwick's has any interest in any assets which, within two years before the date hereof, have been or which are proposed to be, acquired or disposed of by or leased to Borthwick's or any of its subsidiaries, and no contract or arrangement subsisting in which a Director of Borthwick's is materially interested and which is significant in relation to the business of the Group as a whole.

During the year ended 30th September, 1975, the aggregate emoluments of the Directors amounted to £131,000. During the six months period ended 31st March, 1976, the Directors received remuneration at an annual rate of £162,000. In July 1976, three Directors resigned and two new Directors were appointed to the Board. It is expected that the present Directors will receive remuneration at an annual rate of £130,000 after the Offer for Sale.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Articles of Association of Borthwick's contain provisions (inter alia) to the following effect:—

- Votes of Members**
Subject to any special rights or restrictions as to voting attached by or in accordance with the Articles to any class of shares, on a show of hands every member who is present in person shall have one vote and on a poll every member who is present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for every 50p in nominal amount of the shares of which he is the holder.
- Directors**
(A) Save as provided in the Articles, a Director shall not vote in respect of any contract or arrangement or any other proposal whatsoever in which he has any material interest otherwise than by virtue of his interests in shares or debentures or other securities of or otherwise in or through Borthwick's. A Director shall not be counted in the quorum at a meeting in relation to any resolution on which he is deemed to be voting.

(B) A Director shall (in the absence of some other material interest) be entitled to

vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of a resolution on a proposal dealing with the adoption, modification or operation of a special dividend or other special dividend scheme under which a special dividend or other special dividend is to be paid to the holders of shares of Borthwick's or any of its subsidiaries.

(C) Where proposals are under consideration concerning the (including fixing or varying the terms of appointment) of two or more officers or employees with Borthwick's or any company in which Borthwick's is interested, such proposals may be divided and considered in relation to a separately and in such case each of the Directors concerned (if not otherwise from voting) shall be entitled to vote and be counted in the quorum in respect of a resolution on such proposals.

(3) Borrowing Powers

The Directors shall restrict the borrowings of Borthwick's

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FT SURVEY OF CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

More are now optimistic about financial outlook

BY DONALD MACLEAN

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE in the financial outlook has improved this month, after falling appreciably in June, according to the latest FT consumer confidence survey produced by the British Market Research Bureau. The survey was conducted before the Chancellor's recent measures were known.

On a six-month moving average basis, it shows, families were feeling worse-off this month than at any point since the Bureau's monthly series of studies began in 1970.

On the question of buying consumer durables, inflationary fears have appeared to support the relatively high proportion recorded of those thinking it a "good time to buy."

Future confidence, varies widely, however, between groups, with ABC1 men (in professional, managerial and clerical positions) holding a relatively optimistic view compared with the average.

This month the ABC1 men showed renewed optimism, with 14 per cent. more of those interviewed taking an optimistic view, rather than a pessimistic, as a result of dismay over the outlook last month.

For all adults, there was also increased optimism, but there was nevertheless a net 1 per cent. taking a pessimistic line.

In June, the net percentage of those with a pessimistic view

among all adults was 11 per cent.

An indication of the volatility of future confidence, however, is given by the fact that there was a net overall optimism of 7 per cent. in May, a balanced position in March, and a 22 per cent. margin of pessimism in December.

On a six-month moving average basis, there was a continuing trend towards optimism. For all adults, the July figure was a net 3.7 per cent. pessimistic, against 4.3 per cent. in June and 22.5 per cent. in December.

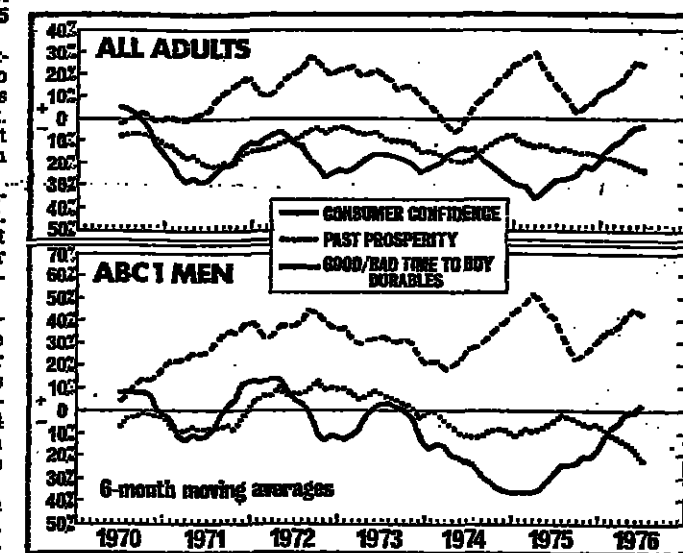
Among ABC1 men, the six-month moving average swung to a net 2 per cent. optimism this month, from a net 0.3 per cent. pessimism in June, and a net 20.8 per cent. pessimism in December.

Among those with an optimistic overall view of the future, a substantial number (some 36 per cent.) argued, as usual, "things must improve — they cannot get worse," while 14 per cent. — a relatively high figure — gave credit to the Government.

Pessimism was associated in the main, with rising prices, which were mentioned "spontaneously" by 24 per cent. of those on the pessimistic side, against 24 per cent. in June.

Some 23 per cent. net of families felt themselves worse off this July than last — a figure somewhat lower than the 28 per cent. who last month felt themselves worse off than a year earlier.

Among ABC1 men, about 25 per cent. net considered themselves worse-off, compared with a 29 per cent. in June.



FT grocery price index falls again

BY DONALD MACLEAN

THE FINANCIAL TIMES Grocery Prices Index fell this month for the second month running, by 6.11 points (2.7 per cent.) to 216.71, its lowest since February.

The movement was again dominated by falling potato prices.

This brings the reduction in the past two months to 4.4 per cent. from the record 23.78 reached in May.

On Tuesday of last week, when this month's shopping was done, it had made a slight recovery, to 217.78 — at which level, nevertheless, its purchasing power (in terms of the U.S. dollar) was showing a fall over the five months of around 13 per cent.

Another factor at work on the prices since February has been the operation of the Government's Selective Price Restraint scheme, which covers a number of items in the shopping basket and limits the price increase for increases in other areas of the

FINANCIAL TIMES SHOPPING BASKET	July 1976	June 1976
Dairy Produce	109.26	110.42
Sugar, Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks	49.50	48.84
Bread, Flour, Cereals	67.35	68.40
Preserves and Dry Groceries	22.54	24.07
Sauces and Pickles	12.08	12.19
Canned goods	41.28	40.93
Frozen foods	35.45	34.73
Meat, Bacon, etc. (fresh)	106.77	101.03
Fruit and Vegetables	98.72	119.36
Non-Foods	48.12	48.35
Total	640.49	658.55

1971: Feb. 100; Mar. 101.09; April 102.73; May 105.75; June 108.00; July 107.24; Aug. 105.40; Sept. 105.26; Oct. 104.35; Nov. 105.48; Dec. 108.24

1972: Jan. 109.24; Feb. 109.10; Mar. 108.04; April 109.36; May 115.97; June 111.97; Aug. 113.40; Sept. 112.14; Oct. 113.15; Nov. 111.48; Dec. 114.49; Jan. 114.49; Feb. 114.77; Mar. 114.77; April 114.77; May 114.77; June 114.77; July 114.77; Aug. 114.77; Sept. 114.77; Oct. 114.77; Nov. 114.77; Dec. 114.77

1973: Jan. 117.56; Feb. 119.25; Mar. 120.53; April 123.80; May 125.57; June 128.81; July 127.44; Aug. 126.59; Sept. 129.39; Oct. 138.93; Nov. 135.86; Dec. 138.28

1974: Jan. 141.41; Feb. 141.52; Mar. 142.64; April 143.23; May 143.23; June 143.23; July 143.23; Aug. 143.23; Sept. 143.23; Oct. 143.23; Nov. 143.23; Dec. 143.23

1975: Jan. 142.84; Feb. 147.77; Mar. 172.50; April 178.39; May 183.41; June 192.02; July 188.45; Aug. 189.23; Sept. 188.64; Oct. 189.79; Nov. 194.78; Dec. 201.90

1976: Jan. 208.23; Feb. 216.60; Mar. 216.60; April 222.43; May 226.78; June 222.82; July 216.71

Money and Exchanges

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 11 per cent. (since May 31, 1976)

Short-term fixed period interest rates remained steady in the London money market last week. At the weekly Treasury bill tender, the average rate of discount rose by 0.0188 per cent. to 10.874 per cent. and Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate was unchanged at 11 per cent.

Day-to-day credit was in short supply in general. Large assistance was given by the authorities on Monday and Wednesday, and a small amount of help on Tuesday.

Credit was in adequate supply on Thursday, and extremely large assistance was given on Friday, partly by small official loans over the week-end to one or two discount houses, at Minimum Lending Rate.

Gold fell sharply at the beginning of last week, following the market reaction to the result of the second gold auction by the International Monetary Fund. Following a fairly sharp decline at the end of the previous week, heavy selling pressure pushed the metal down again on Monday and Tuesday, as speculators realised that the price would not improve as it had after the first IMF auction.

It fell by \$3 on Monday, to close a further \$4 on Tuesday, to \$1101.1073, the lowest level since December 17, 1975. The lowest level touched last week was \$1105.106 on Tuesday, but on the following day the metal recovered some of its losses to \$1123.113, which was the expected reaction after a drop of \$153 in the previous four trading days.

Nervous market conditions continued to the end of the week, as the franc finished at \$1101.1113, a fall of \$6 on the week.

The weakness of gold has cast some doubt over the future of IMF auctions, and was partially responsible for the recent currencies, according to Morgan Guaranty figures, for the first time this year.

responsible for the recent currencies, according to Morgan Guaranty figures, for the first time this year.

Sterling gained ground overall last week, finishing at £178.15 against the dollar at a rise of 60 points on the week. The pound's trade-weighted average depreciation since the Washington Currency Agreement, narrowed of 35.5 per cent. from 38.9 per cent., as calculated by the Bank of England. Announcement of the cuts in public expenditure for the next financial year were received rather calmly, and although there was a soft undertone to sterling on Friday, a fair two way business was reported, and any assistance given by the Bank of England was probably on a small scale.

GOLD MARKET

	July 25	July 26
Gold Bullion (in fine ounces)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Opening	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Closing	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Afternoon fix	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (London)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (New York)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Frankfurt)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Paris)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Zurich)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Geneva)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Basel)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Bern)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Lucerne)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (St. Gallen)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Appenzel)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Schaffhausen)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Glarus)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Uri)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Obwalden)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Nidwalden)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Valais)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Fribourg)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Basle-St. Leon)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Basle-Landschaft)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Soleure)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Neuchâtel)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Vaud)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Genève)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Canton de Vaud)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
Gold Cents (Canton de Fribourg)	\$1104.1113	\$1114.1113
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INDUSTRIALS—Continued

Stock	Price	Dividend	Yield	Dividend	Yield
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

PROPERTY—Continued

Stock	Price	Dividend	Yield	Dividend	Yield
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

SOUTH AFRICANS

TEXTILES

TORACOS

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Investment Trusts

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

TRUSTS—Continued

Stock	Price	Dividend	Yield	Dividend	Yield
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%

FINANCE, LAND, ETC.

O.P.S.

DIAMOND AND PLATINUM

CENTRAL AFRICAN

AUSTRALIAN

OVERSEAS TRADERS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

NOTES

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

NOTES

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

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COPPER

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EASTERN RAND

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MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

NOTES

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

NOTES

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

Serving the world
with
financial expertise.

SANWA
BANK
Tokyo, Japan

MINES—Continued

Stock	Price	Dividend	Yield	Dividend	Yield
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
Admiral	100	10	10%	10	10%
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O.P.S.

DIAMOND AND PLATINUM

CENTRAL AFRICAN

AUSTRALIAN

OVERSEAS TRADERS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

NOTES

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

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MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

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COPPER

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RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

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Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

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COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

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MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

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COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

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MINES

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RUBBERS AND SISALS

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India and Bangladesh

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MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

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RUBBERS AND SISALS

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India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

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MINES

CENTRAL RAND

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NOTES

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

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India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

NOTES

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Amin appeals to UN in row with Kenya

BY QUENTIN PEEL

NAIROBI, July 25.

PRESIDENT AMIN of Uganda warned today that he might be forced to take "desperate action" because of the continuing "blockade" of his country by neighbouring Kenya. He appealed to the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity to intervene in the escalating dispute between the two countries.

Despite drastic rationing, the country was in a critical economic position with only five days' petrol supplies, the Ugandan leader said in telegrams to both Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the U.N. Secretary-General, and Mr. William Zikir, the Secretary-General of the O.A.U. The texts of which were announced on Radio Uganda.

The tone of the Ugandan leader's latest appeal clearly indicates the very rapid deterioration in the country's economy.

Observers in Nairobi suggest that, in spite of the lack of petrol and spare parts within the heavily-armed Ugandan armed forces they could still reach substantial Kenya oil supplies held at Kisumu, on the Lake Victoria, less than 100 miles from the frontier. Without fresh petrol supplies, Uganda is thought to be militarily incapable of a sustained attack.

Electricity

In his telegrams President Amin said: "The situation is critical, which I fear may force Uganda to resort to desperate action out of the need to survive. I call on the OAU and the UN very urgently to send a fact-finding mission to Uganda and Kenya to verify the whole alarming situation which is threatening world peace and order."

Uganda yesterday cut off

electric power supplies to Kenya, but blamed lack of fuel at the power-station for the action. The Kenya power authorities insist that they can manage without the hydro-electric supplies from Uganda, which provides about 20 per cent. of Kenya's total consumption.

President Amin's present desperation stems in part from the apparent Kenyan willingness to allow the East African Community, in which both countries are partners with Tanzania, to break up.

Uganda would certainly be the most seriously affected by any such collapse, as it depends almost totally on the Community services of railways and harbours linked to Kenya.

President Amin accused Kenya of holding up more than 300 rail petrol tankers destined for Uganda and of allowing only one tanker a day across the border, compared with "basic daily requirements" of 80 tankers.

Oil dues

He also claimed to have paid for all his petrol supplies and called on the international oil companies to back him up. President Amin's insistence on having paid for his oil supplies is born out by industry sources, who say that substantial debts earlier in the year were repaid by the beginning of the month.

Uganda has been paying for oil supplied on credit and it is paid for in foreign currency. Freight charges for the petrol are already paid in Kenya shillings. Kenya now claims that Uganda owes a total of £400m. Kenya shilling (£22m), which includes regular trade debt, debt to nationalised industries, and an estimate of frozen dividends. "The war of words between

Kenya and Uganda has raged since President Amin accused his neighbour of complicity in the Israeli commando raid which freed 104 Palestinian-held hostages at Entebbe airport earlier this month, leaving 20 Ugandan soldiers dead.

Squeeze

Uganda has moved troops up to the border since the July 4 raid and Radio Uganda has broadcast threats to destroy President Kenyatta's official residence at Nakuru and attack the port of Mombasa.

Kenya has denied any deliberate retaliation, but has effectively imposed a severe economic squeeze on its landlocked neighbour by insisting on pre-payments for Ugandan imports in Kenya shillings. The telegrams underline the threat reported by Radio Uganda yesterday that "if Kenya continues to blockade Uganda, Uganda will be forced to fight for her survival."

One European resident of Kampala, who arrived in Nairobi at the weekend said: "Although the petrol shortage is obviously critical, people are still walking to work. It is the Ugandan population who are suffering the most, but they are still able to obtain their most basic food supplies."

"The danger is that reports of the situation within Uganda will make the situation there more dangerous both for expatriates and local residents."

"Although a majority of the population no longer supports President Amin, it is difficult to see how they can get rid of him. The only people who could do that are the Army, and any alternative military leader might be worse than the present one."

Doctors to meet Callaghan as action grows

BY DONALD MACLEAN

MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN meets doctors' leaders this afternoon as junior hospital doctors step up their industrial action on the issue of overtime pay.

The doctors' decision to seek a meeting with the Prime Minister was taken at a stormy British Medical Association annual meeting ten days ago, and resulted from the dissatisfaction which they felt over their relationship with Mr. David Ennals, the Secretary for Social Services.

Grievance

They adopted a motion accepting that they had "no option but to invoke the intervention of the Prime Minister" in view of the "manifest inability" of Mr. Ennals to solve eight problems—some over pay and some over the health service—that the BMA had listed.

A major grievance is what is regarded as a broken agreement by the Government over the question of overtime pay for junior doctors during periods of annual or study leave. It is this which is behind the action which now appears to be spreading around the country.

In many places, the working week is being limited to a basic 40 hours, with overtime paid at a reduced rate. In others, emergency cases only are being treated, and in others moves have been made towards a series of 24-hour stoppages.

Already affected include the West Midlands, North West, Mersey, East Anglia, Yorkshire, Oxford and South East Thames.

A threat of more severe trouble appeared yesterday, however, when Dr. David Wardle, chairman of the hospital junior staff committee of the BMA, warned that an "increasing number" of juniors "just want

to give notice that on a certain day they will walk out because they are so disgusted with the Government's attitude." Such feeling, he said, was apparent among doctors in the West Midlands, Mersey and South East Thames regions and from some hospitals in the North West region.

"I am restraining them at the moment," Dr. Wardle said, "but unless the Government is prepared to re-examine the whole thing and realise that it has made a mistake, it could face a far more serious situation than last year." Grass-roots feelings, he said, might become uncontrollable.

The outbreak of industrial action under the auspices of the junior staff committee has, however, led to a counter movement by the break-away Junior Hospital Doctors' Association, which has advised its members to work normally.

Promise

Among the points to be raised by the doctors at today's meeting with the Prime Minister is the "guillotine" technique to the Bill, and are calling on the Prime Minister to "honour" his promise of December, 1975, that the profession would have a full democratic right to influence Parliament's deliberations.

They are also concerned over the operation of incomes policy on both junior and senior consultants. They have already threatened sanctions against the health service administration, rather than patients, should they not be satisfied.

Post Office urged to allow private sector more scope

BY DAVID FISHLOCK

PRIVATE TELEPHONE subscribers—both individuals and businesses—should be given wider opportunities to own or hire their own telecommunications equipment and be free to supply or maintain Standard Telephones and Cables says today the I.C.P.C.

It comes in a report urging major changes in Post Office policies on communications, particularly as they relate to private ownership of equipment, competition, export and research. Standard Telephones, wholly owned by the U.S. International Telephone and Telegraph group, is one of the Post Office's three major suppliers of telephone equipment.

The report was prepared last April for submission to the Post Office Review Committee now enquiring into the Post Office. Its publication follows Standard Telephones' first appearance before the committee last Friday.

Standard Telephones, a private subscriber can own his own telephone exchange on his own premises only if it exceeds 100 lines. The Post Office would still retain all rights to its maintenance.

Competition

Standard Telephones claims that the Post Office would benefit from a change of policy "because competition will improve efficiency and will lead to stronger growth in the national system. In addition, the Post Office would not have to find capital for equipment to hire to subscribers."

On competition, the company says that the "apparently simple principle" adopted when the supply agreement ended in the late 1960s, that prices are based, whenever possible, on competition between accredited suppliers, or on cost investigation when this is not

possible—had not proved easy to apply.

The Post Office was asking for cost investigation of the successful bidder even when there has been competition. "Such a procedure will soon destroy commercial initiative and products will become old-fashioned and expensive," the Post Office should be stressing value analysis rather than cost investigation.

On exports, Standard Telephones calls for an explicit remit for Post Office telecommunications to "help with exports." The tight specifications and inspection standards had sometimes been good selling points, but usually Post Office requirements had not matched those of overseas customers.

The export record of teleprinters had been only "mixed," because the Post Office had been in no hurry to approve the latest technology.

Standard Telephones argues for a big reduction in the Post Office's in-house research efforts, especially in basic and long-range research. It proposes a reduction of 20 to 25 per cent. in total effort, and a four-year period for the Post Office to perform its function as "skilled, informed buyers" with as few as a fifth of the 1,000 qualified research and development staff it now employs, but acknowledged that considerations such as the contribution the U.K. needs to make to "open knowledge" in telecommunications argue for a larger Post Office research effort.

Standard Telephones, complains, however, that the Post Office is offering salaries to graduates 15 to 30 per cent. higher than those prevailing in the industry, with pensions that are also high. At Harlow had found that not compete for new graduates on the open market with Post Office Telecommunications.

Lever to attend EEC finance talks to-day

BY GUY DE JONQUERES

BRUSSELS, July 25.

MR. HAROLD LEVER, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, is due to represent the U.K. at a meeting of EEC Finance Ministers in Brussels to-morrow, at which a number of Dutch proposals for narrowing the economic divergences between the Nine will be discussed.

Mr. Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will not be able to attend, but the presence of a Cabinet member as senior as Mr. Lever suggests that the Government attaches more importance to the talks than had previously been thought.

After the EEC Heads of Government "summit" in Brussels earlier this month, Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, appeared to be cool to the Dutch plan—and especially a proposal

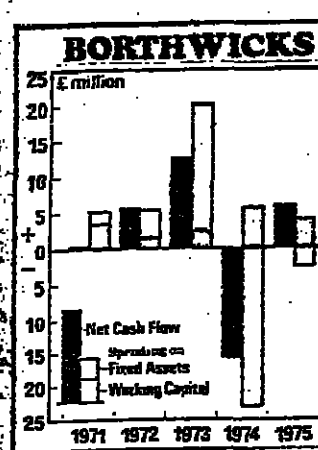
for a controlled float of currencies, not within the EEC "snake" of floating currencies.

While Mr. Lever is expected to argue that sterling could not join such an arrangement without the risk of a severe devaluation, he is thought likely to take a more active role in discussing the other main Dutch proposal, which calls for closer co-ordination of medium-term fiscal and monetary policies between the Nine.

This is the first full meeting of EEC Finance Ministers since the U.K. expenditure cuts were announced last week. Mr. Lever is expected to take the opportunity at the meeting to explain the thinking behind the Government's policy.

THE LEX COLUMN

Borthwicks look for stability



Thomas Borthwick, the international meat trading business, is coming to the market with an extremely volatile financial record—and a prospective dividend yield of 10.6 per cent. covered. Meat prices rather than sales volumes have provided the key to the profits performance in the past, what is not clear from the prospectus is the extent to which changes in the group's sales strategy will insulate it from the more violent fluctuations in profits in future.

The most spectacular of these came in 1973-74 after the oil crisis when oversupply, falling consumption, political intervention and industrial unrest combined to produce pre-tax losses of £13.9m. This accounts for the fact that group net worth of £16.6m. last September was only £3.6m. higher than at the end of 1970, despite a £4.1m. property revaluation surplus in the intervening period. It also explains why the group had net current liabilities of £8.2m. at the same date.

During the last couple of years, however, Borthwicks has taken steps to reduce its exposure to meat price movements, by such methods as cutting back unsold beef stocks in the U.S. and promoting New Zealand lamb in new markets where sales can be made forward. As a result, over two-fifths of the £45m. balance sheet at March was covered by forward sales contracts, and the proportion would tend to be higher than that on average. At the same time, the authorities in New Zealand—where 41 per cent. of overall sales originate—have put through measures to stabilise livestock prices.

As a result, Borthwicks believes that profits swings will be "less marked" in the future. And one of the prime motives behind the offer for sale is the wish to broaden the spread of activities, especially in the U.K. where the group lost money last year. Of the 15m. shares on offer at 80p each, 12m. represent fresh finance.

One of the drawbacks is that overall profitability is still not particularly impressive. The chairman's last annual statement defined adequate profits "as something not far short of £10m. pre-tax, which seems sensible enough" given the average capital employed (net of cash) is currently over

£60m. This year, the group made £4m. in the first half and is forecasting not less than £7m. overall, without taking the use of the issue proceeds into account.

So the dividend yield represents much the most tangible prop for the shares. Here it is important to note that the management's objective is to provide a "regular and steadily increasing" source of income. This means that it will hold back in the good years, and maintain the payment if it possibly can during leaner periods.

Composites

The seven major composite insurance companies are currently valued in the market at £1.7bn. Within the last two years, they have made rights issues amounting in total to over £240m. Unless the world-wide hull market re-establishes itself, they could have to raise another £1bn. by the end of the 1970s if they wish to maintain their solvency margins at end-1975 levels. No wonder the sector has been underperforming the market over the last 12 months.

This is the admittedly over-simplified message of the latest simplified review of the sector by brokers Wood Mackenzie, and there are some important recent changes in the background, all more measurably faster than the rest of the market. Of course the co-incident of this review with the past couple of years' exposure to the "bear market" will be a factor in the review's findings.

The first is the explosion in premium income which, having risen at a compound rate of 17 outstripped the index per cent. over the last five years, could jump by 30 per cent. in 1976. Some eight to ten close to its historic points of this stems from steel-related devaluation, and substantial fact remains that rate increases around the world is going to have a significant impact. These will its multiplier during again be a feature in 1977, and profit upswing.

Cost of Kearney case may reach £200,000

BY KENNETH GOODING, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE LEGAL battle over the scheme to de-nationalise machine tool group Kearney and Trecker Marwin starts in the High Court today. Five days have been set aside for the case. If it goes on that long costs may reach more than £200,000.

Counsel are being employed by five parties apart from the Government—the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, Vickers, Kearney and Trecker, Marwin, and W. E. Norton, which is opposing the proposed scheme.

Much will depend on the attitude of the judge, Mr. Justice Templeman, and what evidence he will allow Norton to submit. Technically Norton was able to be represented at today's hearing. But on July 10 Judge Templeman decided the company should be able to put its view-point.

Mr. Walter Norton, chairman

of Norton, the machine tool merchanting group which has been a shareholder in KTM since 1972, is opposing the scheme on the ground that the prices offered for the KTM shares are "totally unrealistic."

He said yesterday: "I feel certain the case will go on the whole week because of all the evidence we have assembled. It will be the most amazing saga."

Approval

Returning KTM to the private sector would involve the Government in writing off £5m. it has already put into the company and putting up nearly £2m. more. Parliamentary approval has already been given for this, although it was stressed that this in no way pre-judged the issue and that the Government would abide by the court's decision.

KTM has been owned by the Government since a financial

rescue operation in August 1974—carried through because of the company's importance at the high-technology end of the machine tool industry.

If the latest scheme is approved control will pass to Vickers, which has management responsibility for KTM since 1974. The complex scheme to be put to the court today would clean out from the balance sheet KTM's accumulated losses of £8.5m. At the same time, the further injection of capital would leave it with nearly £2m. of new money.

Vickers would end up with an 86 per cent. shareholding. Kearney and Trecker of the U.S. would have the other 14 per cent. The I.C.P.C., like the Government, is willing to write off its previous investment in KTM, which amounts to more than £1m.

Enough North Sea gas reserves for petrochemicals production

BY RAY DAFFER, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

NEW estimates of North Sea gas reserves suggest that offshore fields could satisfy most of the feedstock requirements for new petrochemicals production in northern Europe.

A new review of associated gas contained in oilfields suggests that the total natural gas liquids available could be as high as 25m. to 32m. tons a year, especially if gas from fields in Norwegian waters is to be landed in the U.K. In addition, if the expected production of natural gas from British stabilisation and industrial plants is included, the 1985 total from

U.K. and Norwegian waters could exceed 30m. tons a year. The figures, based on research by U.K. consultants Buchanan and Clacher and published in the European Review of European Chemical News, are far more optimistic than those announced so far.

The recent Government-sponsored study of possible gas gathering pipeline systems carried out by Williams-Mertz Consulting Engineers estimated that about 9m. tons a year of natural gas liquids would be available by 1985 in addition to the output from the Brent field.

Natural gas liquids—the

heavier gases such as ethane, propane and butane—are valuable raw materials for the chemical industry. Europe's first natural gas liquid-based ethylene plant is under construction in Norway while in the U.K. the American chemical group, Dow, has expressed interest in building an ethane-fed ethylene plant.

According to European Chemical News, the higher estimates of natural gas liquid reserves is prompting the investigation of schemes to supply the material by an overhead pipeline to existing chemical producers in France, Benelux and West Germany.

Norton industrial engine hopes rise with new rescue attempt

BY PETER CARTWRIGHT, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

HOPES OF saving the industrial diesel engines from 30-55 h.p. small engines division of Norton Villiers Triumph's operations at Wolverhampton revived at the weekend, almost a year after its closure by NVT and occupation by an action committee representing 1,600 former employees.

Involved in the rescue attempt is a consortium of City and businessmen including Mr. David Sankey, son of Mr. Geoffrey Sankey, who, until his retirement, was chief executive of GKN-Sankey (which makes most of the truck wheels for the U.K. motor industry). He is Citroën's U.K. purchasing agent and also sourced to make such a move profitable. At the same time, he is marketing rights over Citroën's industrial products, Citroën's range of petrol and

Wolverhampton, imports would inevitably grow. If things look encouraging, he will use that argument to seek financial support from the National Enterprise Board.

"We are engaged on a detailed market study of the U.K. and overseas for Villiers-type engines," he said, "and hope to have the results to enable us to make up our minds by mid-September in the knowledge that after all this time the market for us has been disappearing."

Mid-September is later than the liquidator Mr. Kenneth Morgan has said he is prepared to wait before auctioning plant and equipment, but the project appears to be the best hope for salvaging the factory.

KWIK-FIT (TYRES & EXHAUSTS) HOLDINGS LIMITE

"A successful year after rationalisation and reorganisation"

Extracts from the Statement of Chairman, Mr. Alec Stet, the Annual General Meeting 23rd July 1976.

Net profit before tax for year ending 28th February 1976 £339 Compared with the loss incurred previous year £25,268.

Final dividend of 0.75p per share which together with interim 0.5p per share gives total for year of 1.25p per share compared for the previous year.

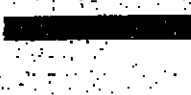
Provisions made for the closures of the discontinued operations proved to be adequate and will allow our directors to continue expand those activities which they consider will increase the assets of your Company. The debenture stock amounting to has been repaid.

Expansion of Kwik-Fit while you wait tyre and exhaust fitting continues. Now operating from 31 depots (including 2 in Hong Kong) compared with 22 a year ago.

New 10,000 sq ft central storage depot recently opened in Ed. This will enable Kwik-Fit to improve on their bulk buying price maximum buying terms on tyres and exhaust systems.

The level of current trading indicates satisfactory and encouraging prospects for the current financial year.

Rights issue of one ordinary share of 25p at par for every four shares held. Net proceeds amounting to approximately £240 considerably reduce bank borrowings, and be used to conduct new Kwik-Fit depots as and when they become available.



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